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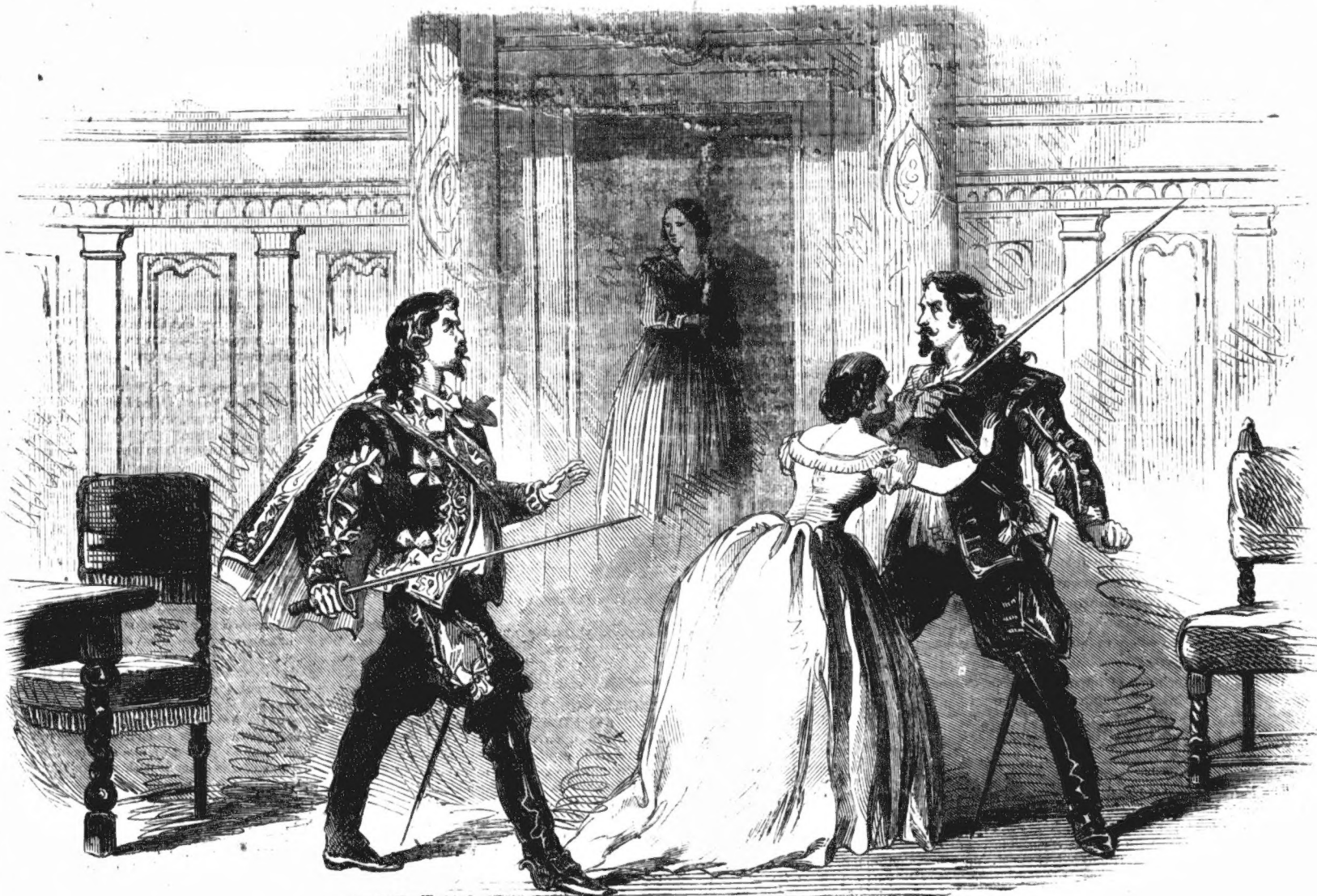
ONE PENNY.

## NOTES OF THE WEEK.

We never recollect such an exciting time as we have had of it since the intelligence arrived of the boarding of the Trent steamer, and taking therefrom the Envoys of the Confederate States of North America. On the first publication of the news public feeling was much excited, and nothing was talked of but immediate retaliation and a fight. We doubt not but that had the temper of the public at this time been taken as the true index to a State policy, the first Cunard liner from Liverpool would have carried across the Atlantic a declaration of war. A few days have cooled the excitement, especially when the leading newspapers have given their opinion that it was possible Captain Wilkes might have acted on his own responsibility, and that after all an "outrage" might not have been committed viewed from the light shed upon the transaction by international law. At least it was averred that the honour of the country was safe in the hands of the present Ministers, who would be guided in their course of action by their responsible law officers. The comparative calm begotten by this assurance

was no doubt considerably disturbed when the organs of opinion supposed to be in the confidence of Government announced that the Crown lawyers had decided against the act of the American captain, and that based upon that decision a special messenger had been dispatched to Washington to ask for a full disclaimer of the act accompanied by the restoration of the kidnapped commissioners. Since then the whole question has passed fully into the region of discussion, and become the subject of endless debates both in and out of newspapers. Some few parties have been found to stand up for the right of Capt. Wilkes to board the Trent and take Messrs. Slidell and Mason prisoners, but the great majority go for the proposition that it was an "outrage," pure and simple, and will hear of no right or authority on the other side whatever. Extreme views are freely expressed on both sides. All the points of international law that bear upon the subject favour the right of search for contraband of war, and if Captain Wilkes had found on board the Trent emissaries conveying dispatches of a belligerent character calculated to bring aid and comfort to those in arms against the Federal authority, he was justified in

seizing the vessel and taking her into a port for adjudication by a prize court. The opinion of the Crown lawyers implies this, though it does not say so in express terms, so that the "outrage" of Captain Wilkes consists in his setting up his own judgment as to what was contraband, and taking the obnoxious individuals he found in the ship, instead of taking the vessel into port. This narrows the question much, and should somewhat moderate the zeal and pugnacious manifestations of our countrymen, especially as there is no proof that Captain Wilkes was acting upon instructions derived from the Washington Government, or certainly that his act, if shown to be illegal, will be endorsed by President Lincoln. Still, as a fortnight must elapse ere the final result of the demands of our Government can be ascertained, and as in the mean time the peace of two worlds hangs in the balance, it is no wonder that there should be a general fever and uneasiness pervading the public mind. Still, there is nothing in the transaction that may not be easily and satisfactorily explained and adjusted, if we have sensible men at the head of affairs in both countries, and if the dispatches



SCENE FROM THE "PURITAN'S DAUGHTER," AT THE ENGLISH OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.



which our Government has sent out, as is alleged, are couched in temperate and becoming language. We, of all peoples, do not like to be bullied into doing what may be considered right and proper, and the Americans are "chips of the old block," and do not relish being talked down too much, especially by that parent whom they know to have been often in the way herself, and guilty of as great "outrages" as seizing upon two belligerent commissioners. The two Governments, if left to themselves, there is every hope will settle the affair, and we will escape the horrors of an unnatural and fratricidal strife. That there are parties on both sides of the Atlantic eager to fan the flames of discord is but too true. We have only to read certain newspapers that live upon publishing "sensational" articles and appeals to the prejudices and ignorance of their readers to be assured of this. London as well as New York can boast of more than one of these whose mission for months has been to cultivate an ill-feeling towards America and American institutions, especially towards the Northern States, now struggling to put down the gigantic uprising of the South. Slavery has been named as a patriarchal institution; slaveowners compared in their habits and characters to fine old English gentlemen; their notions of government represented to be more English than American; and their state of society a great advance upon the civilization of the North. These parties chuckled with glee when the *La Plata* brought the news of the outrage on board the *Trent*, and wrote exultingly over the coming independence of the slaveocracy of the South, the removal of the blockade, and the sweeping of the "Yankee" fleet and merchantmen out of the seas wholesale. We trust these birds of ill-omen will be disappointed, and their screeching end in no worse result than a month's anxiety and uneasiness; for nothing more hurtful to civil and religious liberty and the progress of civilization and free institutions, could possibly happen than an American war. It would stop at once all progress at home and abroad; it would strengthen the institutions of despotism wherever they are at present established, and cut off all hope for the struggling and the oppressed; it might, further, end in the destruction of free institutions on the continent of America, and throw our country back for a century. Nor in such a struggle can we calculate what part that dark and inscrutable potentate who rules the destinies of France might take. And while the future would be thus involved in doubt and darkness, what terrible sufferings would our own industrious millions have to undergo—factories closed, manufactures suspended, our best foreign customers cut off, our Transatlantic granary sealed up, our greatest field of emigration closed, with cruisers and privateers, like so many highwaymen, crowding every sea, increased debt and taxation, and an alienation of blood relations and kinsmen which might take ages to remove! All this is on the card at the present time if the Cabinets on either side of the Atlantic mean to fight about this right of search, which, instead of being settled by the sword, ought at once to be arranged by negotiation, and future difficulties prevented through a proper treaty. Within the last few days we are glad to notice that a better spirit prevails; and a hope is going up that nothing but words will flow out of the affair. The tone of our journals has improved, and the two sides of the question are more fairly stated and discussed. The money market also partakes in the improved feeling.

The other events of the week may be briefly stated. First in importance comes the great Christmas Cattle Show, that was held in Baker-street this week, which has proved more than usually successful. Particulars of the exhibition will be found in another column, with a number of engravings illustrative of the leading bucolic "beauties."

Several of our leading members of Parliament have been "ventilating" themselves on public questions within the week. Mr. Williams has met the electors of Lambeth, and Mr. Cobbett the good people of Oldham. On each occasion the leading topic was the American question, and both speakers counselled moderation in the critical state of affairs.

The election for the New Burgh of Birkenhead has resulted in the return of the Tory candidate, Mr. Lind. The latter is the great ship-owner, and has much local influence, hence his return.

Mr. Cox has taken the field for Finsbury against Mr. Remington Mills, and there will be a keen contest. The new candidate professes to come forward on purity principles, and says he will not spend much money to secure his return. A third candidate, in the Conservative interest, is talked of.

Parliament is expected to meet early in January for the transaction of business.

We have no later news of importance from France or Italy.

## Foreign News.

### FRANCE.

The *Patrie* has published in its columns several articles of an exceedingly malevolent nature against the Northern States of America. Some persons will conclude from this that France is about to take part with us in our possible conflict with the Union. Moreover, it is rumoured that M. de Chasseloup-Laubat, Minister of Marine, left Paris on Saturday evening for Brest and Lorient, whilst it is asserted that the administration of the navy has been informed that an event may occur about the 15th or 16th inst. which would render it necessary for the

Government to have ten ships of war at its immediate disposal. It is in order to ascertain the means of executing this order that the Minister has undertaken the aforesaid journey. But the rumor, which is most likely without any foundation whatever, is far from having the importance some people would give it. The mass of the public does not believe that France would be so unwise as to join in a war that does not concern her, and by which she could gain nothing, and that, too, without receiving any provocation; for President Lincoln, as soon as he heard of the damage done to the *Jules-et-Maria* by the *San Jacinto*, hastened to offer an indemnity, and to make an apology for the misunderstanding which had given rise to this act.

### ITALY.

A very animated debate on Italian affairs has just taken place in the Parliament at Turin. The greatest interest has been shown respecting the views of Rattazzi who is supposed to be in the confidence of Louis Napoleon.

On the resumption of the debate on Wednesday, Signor Rattazzi said:—It would be unjust to wish to make the Government responsible for the failure of the negotiations relative to Rome, and for the disturbances in the Neapolitan provinces. Another ministry would be in the same situation. I will not discuss the documents which have been communicated to the chambers by the Government, as it is useless to consider whether the concessions offered to the Church were dangerous to the State because they had been without any result. Rome is naturally and will soon be the capital of Italy. I am convinced that the French Government desires that the occupation of Rome may cease. It is the interest of France to have a strong Italy as an ally. The French Government is our sincere friend. It recognised us after we had proclaimed Rome as the capital of Italy. Our adversaries are their adversaries. Signor Rattazzi then alluded to his visit to Paris, which he said was of a purely personal character. He denied the malevolent rumors which had been circulated with regard to his intentions. He condemned the proposition of Signor Ricciardi, and said he believed that France would aid the Italians against the brigandage in Naples. He concluded by urging the union of all the constitutional factions. Signor Rattazzi's speech was received with unanimous applause, and the debate was again adjourned.

Some other speakers having been heard on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, the Roman question was resumed. Baron Ricasoli said that the advice given to the Government during the debate had been adopted. He refuted the arguments of several members who maintained that the only enemy of Italy was France, and declared that he could easily prove the contrary:—"The principle of non-intervention having been agreed to by France, proves that her friendship is free from all pretension to supremacy. Italy is grateful to France. She must, however, place herself in a condition to act alone and without any foreign aid. The state of things in the interior of the kingdom is such as it must always be in a country which is still in a state of revolution. The forces of the little state of Piedmont could not suffice for the new kingdom. The military and police of the former Government were corrupt, and could not be employed. We have formed new elements." Baron Ricasoli announced that a treaty had been concluded with France for the suppression of brigandage. The abolition of the lieutenancy of Naples, he said, was the result of the adoption of the principle of administrative unification. The lieutenancy of Sicily would also be shortly abolished. Touching the Roman question, he said that the transformation of the Papacy must be effected by Italy in accord with France. It was not possible to use violence, which could not bring about a solution of the question. It was necessary to persuade the Catholic mind in favour of his project of arrangement. This he was striving to do. Baron Ricasoli concluded by asking the Chamber for a vote either franking or blaming the policy of the Government.

The Minister of War said that he preserved all that he could of the old Bourbon army when in a state of dissolution. The regular army numbered 262,000 men, 20,000 of whom were on active service. The new levy would give 91,000 in March next, when we should have 300,000 combatants. If another war of independence were to break out, we should have recourse to an appeal to the national enthusiasm. The nation would find sufficient men for its own deliverance.

Baron Ricasoli gave some additional explanations regarding the state of public security in the city of Bologna, which he said was not so bad as had been represented.

Count Bastogi, Minister of Finance, refuted some erroneous assertions which had been made by Signor Rattazzi in reference to the state of the national finances.

Signor Carutti, in the name of the Government, declared that in drawing up their plan of arrangement with the Pope, the Ministry had no intention of making a diplomatic document, but simply an appeal to public opinion on the pretensions of Rome and Italy.

Dr. Bertani made a lengthy speech against the Ministry, which drew forth loud protestations and many questions from several deputies. Dr. Bertani having, in the course of his speech, asserted that on some occasions the Administration had been guilty of opening letters passing through the post, the Ministry demanded that the charge should be investigated by the Chamber.

After a long discussion a committee was appointed to receive the depositions of Dr. Bertani.

The debate on the policy of the Government had not closed when we went to press.

NAPLES, Monday.—At three p.m. yesterday an eruption of Vesuvius took place near Torre del Greco. This eruption was of a more threatening character than any that has taken place for a long period. The inhabitants are taking to flight.

### GREECE.

A dispatch from Athens announces that Dousios, the miserable young man who made an attempt upon the life of the Queen of Greece, has been condemned to capital punishment. Possibly, however, the sentence may not be executed, and the young man may be treated as a mere maniac. Another piece of news, of a very different kind, is that the city of Athens is about to be fully lighted with gas. Gas in the city of Minerva and the Violet Crown is indeed a terrible disturbance of all classic association—but we cannot help rejoicing at the practical innovation, for all that.

Letters from Lisbon state that the new King of Portugal has announced his approaching marriage with the daughter of the Prince of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen and sister of the Queen. The princess is fast sixteen years old.

### AMERICA.

The steamship *Edinburgh*, which left New York on the 23rd, has brought us a deluge of American news of importance. The particulars are as follows:—

The *New York Herald* of the 23rd November has the following on the situation:—"A force of General Smith's division made a reconnaissance on Thursday in the direction of Fairfax Court House, to a point near Flint-hill, but did not discover the enemy. They brought home, however, no less than eighty wagon loads of forage, and in this respect were successful. Their principal object was to obtain supplies. Our vessels continue to run the blockade on the Lower Potomac."

"Intelligence reached Jefferson City yesterday by a train from the West that the Confederates had burnt down the town of Warsaw on the night previous to prevent its being made winter quarters for the Union troops. A large quantity of Government stores were destroyed in the conflagration."

Dispatches from Baltimore state that the Secessionists of Accomac and Northampton counties, on the eastern shore of Virginia, to the number of 1,800, had laid down their arms, and that the Federal troops were in full possession of the two counties.

General Halleck has issued orders to the Federal army in Missouri that in consequence of important information respecting the number and condition of the Federal forces being conveyed to the enemy by fugitive slaves, no such persons shall hereafter be permitted to enter the lines of any camp or any force on the march, and any fugitive slaves now within such lines to be immediately excluded therefrom. Accounts of the movements of General Price in Missouri are still conflicting.

The State Legislature, in session at Neosho, Missouri, had passed an ordinance of Secession, united the State of Missouri with the Southern Confederacy, and elected General Rains, one of the senators, to the Confederate Congress.

The Washington correspondent of the *New York Times* says it has been officially ascertained that the Federal Government has now in the field, in camp, and in process of formation, 600,000 volunteers. The same correspondent says that \$24,000,000 Treasury notes "demand" have been issued.

Mr. Smith, Secretary of the Interior, in a speech at Washington, disavowed the policy of putting arms into the hands of the Slaves of the South, which policy had been endorsed by Mr. Cameron, Secretary of War. Mr. Smith declared such was not the policy of the Federal Administration, and that with the great numbers, great credit, powerful navy, and righteousness of the Federal cause, the rebellious States could be conquered without resorting to the policy suggested by Mr. Cameron.

The largest body of men ever reviewed on the American continent was paraded in review by General McClellan, at Washington, on the 20th November. The troops consisted of seventy-six regiments of infantry, seven of cavalry, and seventeen batteries, in all about 70,000 men, forming only a portion of the army of the Potomac. They were all fully equipped. The time occupied in passing was three hours.

The Washington correspondent of the *New York Tribune* says, that Major Lee, Judge-Advocate of the army, has made a report on the case of General Fremont to General McClellan, accompanied by charges substantially the same as those made by Colonel Blair.

The *New York Herald* contains the following:—

The latest accounts from Messrs. Mason and Slidell is, that the *San Jacinto* was entering Boston harbour last night, and there is very little doubt that these gentlemen are now lodged safely in Fort Warren. The Government has decided that they shall be treated in all respects—as to close confinement and fire—like criminals guilty of the highest crimes against the law, until full assurance is received that Colonel Cameron and the other officers now in the hands of the rebels, shall receive the treatment due to their rank and position as prisoners of war taken on the field of battle, according to the usages of all civilised nations. The Government has also come to the determination to hang every prisoner duly convicted of piracy on the high seas, no matter whether he hails from the North or South, from England or any other foreign nation, and that they will hold the prisoners now in captivity—including Slidell, Mason, and Faulkner—responsible for any barbarity which may be practised by the rebels upon the prisoners of war confined in Southern prisons. In other words, the Administration is resolved to carry out the law strictly as regards piracy, and to treat the rebel prisoners in precisely the same manner as the rebels may deal with our officers captured in battle.

The transport *Constitution*, with 2,000 troops of the Marine and Connecticut regiment on board, sailed from Cape Elizabeth, near Portland, yesterday forenoon, and proceeded southwards on her expedition, in fine weather.

Among other interesting items from the South, which we give to-day, are two extracts from Southern journals which are strangely in conflict with each other. The first is from the *Richmond Whig*, which, in its comments on Jeff. Davis's Message, represents the North as completely whipped, and prepared to submit to its fate. It declares that the North and South are two people from this time forward, and that the only thing which now remains for the South is to give us a sound drubbing and make us pay the expenses of the war. In contrast with this cool method of settling the question with the United States' Government we have a dispatch from Charleston to the *Richmond Examiner*, stating that popular confidence in the efficiency of the guns of the rebels is entirely shaken since the fall of Beaufort against the monster frigates and iron-clad gunboats of the Government; that the "sordid souls" who inhabit the Southern cities are flying to the interior for safety, and it describes the panic in Savannah as even worse than in the neighbourhood of Charleston, whole districts having become suddenly deserted in that quarter. A comparison between the bombast of one statement and the discouraging symptoms of the other is rather amusing.

In addition to the foregoing by the *Edinburgh*, we have additional dispatches by the *Niagara* which reached Queens-town on Saturday. The news is thus brought down to the 28th ult.

Commander Wilkes, on a public reception in Boston, said: "I depended upon my own judgment in capturing Messrs. Mason and Slidell. I did my duty to the Union, and I am prepared to do so again."

It is reported that on 11th ult. were found in the baggage of Messrs. Slidell and Mason.



The New York Herald says: "When the real facts of the capture of the Confederate Commissioners will have the best effect in England, as it will show that we are not to be intimidated from prosecuting our just rights."

The Confederate Congress has passed a resolution for removing the seat of government from Richmond to Nashville. General Price is again reported to have crossed the Osage river and to be advancing on Osceola.

Three Confederate officers and seven cannon have been captured on the eastern shore of Virginia.

The Evening Post states that Mr. Cameron, Secretary of War, in his report from the War Department to Congress, will take strong ground in favour of the emancipation of the slaves belonging to the rebels.

The Southern journals announce that Colonel Brown opened fire from Fort Pickens on Pensacola on the 19th inst. The Federal steamers Niagara and Colorado took part in the bombardment, but after some time were obliged to haul off, having been disabled by the fire from Fort MacRae.

The Pensacola navy yard was three times on fire. The particulars, although meagre, and derived from Southern sources are considered in Washington to be favourable to the Federals.

The privateer Beauregard has been captured at Key West.

The Panama Star states that the governor of New Granada has entered a protest against the legality of the transportation of prisoners by General Sumner across the neutral territory of the Isthmus of Panama.

NEW YORK, Nov. 28.

Beaufort was still unoccupied on the 20th inst.

The Federals have taken the island of Tybee, at the mouth of the Savannah river.

Commerce in Missouri, below St. Louis, will be conducted by the Federal Government only.

A dispatch in the New York Times states that the withdrawal of the Federal forces from Western Virginia has commenced.

#### THE SOUTHERN CONGRESS.

President Davis has delivered his message to the Confederate Congress. It is most determined in tone, and states that, after seven months, the Federalists have failed to extend their occupancy of Southern soil, and at many points have been driven to act on the defensive.

It states that the Confederates have been highly successful in all their engagements, and pointed to the great progress which their cause was making in Missouri and Kentucky.

The Confederate financial system is stated to have worked well, and to promise good results for the future. The system of issuing treasury notes, continues the message, has "fully answered the expectation of the Confederates, and if they husband their means, and make judicious use of their resources, it would be difficult to fix a limit to the period during which the Confederates will be able to carry on the war against the Federals. The reconstruction of the Union, which the Federals seek to effect by force of arms, has become more and more palpably impossible. The causes which induced the separation not only remain in full force, but have been strengthened. The Confederates shrink with aversion from the bare idea of renewing connection with the North. The South will be content to live at peace with the North, but the separation is final. The South will accept no alternative."

President Davis then informs the Congress that Messrs. Sidel and Mason, commissioned to represent the Confederacy abroad, had been seized while under the protection and within the dominion of a neutral nation, and says:—"That the claim of the United States to seize them in the streets of London would have been as well founded as the seizure on board the Trent. Had they been malefactors, their arrest could not have taken place on board British ships except according to the law provided for the extradition of criminals. The Confederates asked no aid from foreign powers, but perhaps had a right to inquire if the European doctrine that the blockade to be binding must be effective was to be generally applied, or only in particular cases. Evidence will be laid before the European Governments of the total inefficiency of the blockade."

The New York Herald of the 24th November, thus alludes to the message of President Davis:—"As a summary of the rebel view of the position of the belligerent parties since the commencement of the civil war, it is interesting, and contains some bold statements concerning the condition of the South, which will be received with no little surprise, and will certainly be accepted with no credence whatever. To say that the document is replete with misrepresentations as to the object as well as the conduct of the present war, would do no injustice to the composition of Mr. Davis. He endeavours to present to the misguided people whom he addresses, the fact that the South is invaded by a horde of barbarians, who are carrying on the war in a fashion contrary to the usages of civilised nations. He represents the condition of the rebel States as progressing in manufactures and other branches of industry, in spite of the troubles which have overtaken them, but he is unwillingly compelled to admit that the chances of assistance and recognition from abroad—upon which alone their hopes of success rested—are very small, if not absolutely frustrated. It is upon the whole a weak and wavering document, more indicative of doubt and fear as to the future than of hope and confidence in the cause of which he is the representative. The message is viewed by the Government in Washington and by all intelligent persons there as a singular intermixture of bombast and falsehood, and as such it will probably be considered by every one who peruses it carefully, and compares its bold statements with the facts developed by the incidents of the war from its commencement to the present time."

The Cunard steamer Niagara, arrived at Liverpool Monday morning.

There is little or nothing of importance relative to the progress of the war, additional to what was embraced in the Queenstown telegram. The bombardment of Pensacola appears to be the only event of moment, but the accounts regarding it are conflicting and meagre.

It is represented that the Federal command of the bombardment from Fort Pickens on the 24th November, and that the frigates Colorado and Niagara participated, but were ultimately hauled off very much damaged. The later accounts from Confederate sources state that the walls of Fort Pickens were breached and that the garrison had fled. The statement that the Confederates' loss was little or nothing, and that of the Federal forces was heavy. The Pensacola navy yard was on fire three times, but the flames were subdued.

Captain Wilkes and the officers of the San Jacinto, met with a perfect ovation at Boston.

They were officially received by the authorities at Faneuil Hall, which was crowded to excess, and on Captain Wilkes presenting himself, the cheering was of the most enthusiastic character, and lasted for five minutes.

A day's later news from America, by the steamer Norwegian, states that Pensacola had been evacuated by the Confederates, and the Navy Yard destroyed by the bombardment of the Federal fleet and Fort Pickens. The other news is not of much importance.

## Home News.

The Morning Post states that early next session a measure will be introduced for the establishment of a system of "artistic copyright."

No poem of sufficient merit has this year been offered to the adjudicators of the Seatonian Prize; consequently, 1861 will figure in the calendar as a blank.

The Marquis of Hartington, eldest son of the Duke of Devonshire, is about to marry the Hon. Miss Pitt, daughter of Lord and Lady Rivers.

The North British Daily Mail announces the failure of Messrs. Broadfoot, Douglas, and Co., shawl manufacturers, of Glasgow, with liabilities for about £10,000. The assets are estimated at £23,000.

Intelligence was on Thursday received at the India-office, by telegraph, of the death of the Countess Canning, wife of the Governor-General of India. The lamented countess expired on the 18th ult. at Calcutta.

Her Majesty has appointed W. M. Hindmarsh, of the Northern Circuit, to the office of Attorney-General of the county palatine of Durham, in the room of R. Ingham, Esq., M.P., who has retired.

It is understood that Mr. Serjeant Hayes has been appointed Recorder of Leicester, vacant by the elevation to the Bench of John Mellor, Esq., Q.C., M.P.

LOSS OF ANOTHER BALTIC STEAMER.—A telegram received from Elsinore, announces the wreck of the Onda steamer on the island of Anholt, in the Cattegat. She was a large class steamer, and chartered by Messrs. Robinson and Co., in the City. The ship and cargo were largely insured, both at Lloyd's and at the various insurance offices.

HEALTH OF MR. THOMAS WAKLEY.—Mr. Wakley, coroner for West Middlesex, is rapidly recovering from his long and dangerous indisposition. Mr. Brent, the deputy coroner, at an inquest last week, read some extracts from a letter he had received from Madeira from Mr. Wakley, which was written in the highest spirits, stating that so great an effect had the change of climate, and peace of mind made upon him, that he was almost convalescent, and that if he still progressed favourably, he was in great hopes he should be in a condition to return to his native country and friends in a very short time, to resume his duties.

TOM SAYERS AND THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES.—The proprietor of the Champion Circus, Tom Sayers, having announced his performance in Oxford without the leave of the proper authorities, has brought down the wrath of the University authorities, who, widely distributed the following handbill:—"A person named Sayers having announced his intention of opening a circus in Oxford, and not having obtained permission from the vice-chancellor and the mayor to do so, members of the University in statu pupillari are warned not to attend the aforesaid exhibition.—F. Jeune, Vice-Chancellor; W. B. Jones, Senior Proctor; G. Ridding, Junior Proctor."

THE FIRE AT THE HAMMERSMITH DISTILLERY.—The fire in the distillery of Messrs. Haig and Co., in the Fulham-road, Hammersmith, has destroyed many thousand pounds worth of property. The property destroyed is thus officially returned by Captain Shaw to the fire insurance companies forming the London brigade:—"Messrs. Haig and Co., spirit distillers, Fulham-road, Hammersmith, the still houses, three storeys high, 112 feet long, and 36 wide, and contents, about two-thirds destroyed. Roofs of back houses on the west side, and roofs of smith's shops, and countinghouse severely damaged by the upper part of wall falling upon them. The cause of fire unknown. The buildings and their contents were insured in the Phoenix Fire-office."

Pictures intended for the forthcoming exhibition at the British Institution, must be sent to the gallery on Monday, the 13th, and Tuesday, the 14th of January next, between ten and five o'clock, and sculptures, on Wednesday, the 15th of the same month, between the same hours.

A marriage is arranged to take place between Lady Lonsborough and Lord Otto Fitzgerald, son of the Duke of Leinster.

A respite has been received by Mr. Fannister, the governor of Maidstone Gaol, for George Inghen, who was convicted at the last session of the Central Criminal Court of the murder of his sweetheart by drowning in the Surrey Canal.

DEVASTATIONS OF THE INDIAN FAMINE.—The final report of Colonel Baird Smith on the Indian Famine estimates the deaths from actual hunger, and disease consequent on hunger, at 19,000 souls. In Bulandshahr, three and a-half per cent. of the population perished of starvation, and in the Delhi district only 2,678 yoke of oxen, out of some 18,000, were left alive.

WHEN MAY THE DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT BE EXPECTED?—Any instructions which were sent to Lord Lyons in the Europa, on Saturday, will reach his lordship about the 11th instant. A Southampton mail packet will leave New York three days after that date, and will reach England about the 26th. A Cunard mail packet will leave America on the 18th instant, and will arrive in England about the 30th instant. Before the end of the year, then, decisive intelligence may be expected.

MARYVILLE'S DESCENT DOWN A COAL SHAFT.—The other day a belated Hazard, while emptying a barrel of water at the bottom of a coal shaft, fell into the shaft. The man, who was named Hazard, fell 170 feet down the shaft head foremost, but strange to say alighted without sustaining any injury. He owed his escape to the fact that there was ten feet of water at the bottom of the pit. His head was jammed in the mud at the bottom of the pit, but he had presence of mind enough to press himself into the mud, and then lay on the water, and was happily recovered not much the worse for his perilous descent.

SHORT TIME IN THE COTTON DISTRICTS.—The Manchester Guardian contains a tabular statement of the condition of employment in the cotton districts, which is believed to be more complete than any yet published. The returns are from 1,233 mills, ordinarily employing 266,507 operatives, and the result shown is an average reduction of 34 per cent. in the working hours. The number of hands actually out of work in the total of 266,507 is 26,194. With regard to the future course of the millowners, it is said that the reduction of employment will be increased at Christmas to at least 50 per cent. Indeed, many firms contemplate stopping for a clear month at that season. Others will limit the cessation to a week.

SIR JOHN ARNOTT, M.P.—Some time ago Sir John offered £10,000 for the purchase of the Castle Hyde estate, which was in the market, having formed a portion of the late John Sadler's nominal transactions in the Incumbered Estates Court, to whom it was knocked down for £19,500. But as the Mayor's offer of £10,000 was not accepted, he has resolved to employ his capital in a more beneficial and useful way in anticipating the approaching season of distress and scarcity, by establishing a *Monster Bakery for the poor*, and he has for this praiseworthy object purchased the extensive concerns in Filton-street, St. Finn Barr's, known as the brewery and steam-mills, late in the possession of George Waters and Sons: Sir John's intention being to buy and grind his own grain, bake his own bread, and dispose of it to the poor at first cost, thus saving the profits on the grain, the grinding, and the baking. It is also his intention to establish depots throughout all parts of the city, where the poor will be supplied with meal, flour, and bread, at first cost.

AN EXTRAORDINARY FISH.—On Sunday morning last, as some servants of Mr. Patrick Shanahan's, Ocean View, Clonsilla, were collecting seaweed on the rocks, at Doughmore, they found among the weeds a very curious fish. Its length is two feet nine inches; its head resembles in shape the otter; it has two rows of teeth in each jaw, the front teeth are very long, and sharp as needles; it has but one eye, on the right side of its head; it has two hands like the frog, but shorter in proportion, and very flat; behind each of the hands is a large pocket or bag; its skin is of a dark brown colour, quite smooth, without scales. The fishermen of these shores have never seen a fish of its description before. It is at present in the possession of Mr. W. Stoddert, Carlisle Lodge, who intends preserving it as one of the wonders of the deep.

ROAD ACROSS HYDE PARK.—An influential deputation, representing various metropolitan parishes, waited upon Mr. Cowper, last week, to urge upon him the importance of constructing the long-talked-of new road across Hyde-park, connecting Paddington with Brompton and South Kensington, a work which the exigencies of the International Exhibition seem to render imperative. The interview assumed a decidedly practical character. Mr. Cowper gave his unequivocal sanction to the scheme, and on his suggestion a committee was appointed to confer with him on the subject of ways and means. The parishes more directly interested in the improvement appear disposed to do their duty without any application to the House of Commons for a grant of public money.

THE IRISH NATIONALISTS.—A meeting of the members of the "National Meeting Committee of Preparation" was held on Friday in the European Hotel, Dublin, James Plunkett, Esq., in the chair, at which, after much discussion, the following resolution was adopted:—"That an Irish National Association be and is hereby declared established; and that a conference of leading nationalists be invited to Dublin for the purpose of preparing the constitution and rules of the association, which, having been first submitted to and revised by eminent legal counsel, shall be subsequently laid before the public."

AN ANTI-BRITISH MEETING IN DUBLIN.—A public meeting of an extraordinary character was held in Dublin on Thursday night. It was convened for the purpose of considering the Anglo-American crisis in relation to Irish affairs. The O'Donoghue presided, and speeches were delivered full of sympathy with America, and pretty plainly intimating what were the feelings and aspirations of the anti-English party in Ireland. Several resolutions were passed, declaring that as the population of America was largely composed of Irishmen, and the Great Republic had given them a generous asylum, Ireland would not be an indifferent spectator to a struggle between England and America; and urging upon all Irishmen the duty of "a united rally for the old cause of their country." A committee to consider the advisability of an organisation was appointed. The O'Donoghue was elected chairman of the committee, which is to consist of twenty-one members besides the officers.

BANQUET AT NOTTINGHAM.—A banquet was given to say members for Nottingham, last week. We should rather the "member," as Mr. Mellor, by his elevation to the bench, had ceased to represent the borough, although he occupied his seat when the banquet was originally planned. Mr. Paget was present, and reviewed the events of the session at great length. In his remarks on the American question he expressed his opinion that the unfriendly tone of a portion of the press of that country towards England, was the work of a foreign element, and did not represent the opinions of the Americans themselves. He spoke emphatically in favour of Hungarian independence, and indulged in some reminiscences of his recent visit to that unfortunate country. "The health of Mr. Justice Mellor," was drunk, and Mr. Mellor, jun., responded in his name.

MR. WILLIAMS AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.—Last night Mr. Williams, M.P. for Lambeth, addressed a meeting of his constituents, over which Mr. Stratton presided, in the Assembly-room, Horns Tavern, Kennington. In the course of his address he said the capture of the four gentlemen on board a British packet was to be settled by one of two means—either by peaceable negotiation or by arms. (Hear, hear.) He hoped the Americans would have sense enough to meet that question with justice, and that peace would be the consequence. (Cheers.) He was quite sure that the Government would be ready to meet it on a principle only protective of the honour and character of this country (cheers) which every Englishman, whatever might be his party, was most decidedly determined to uphold. (Renewed cheers.) He hoped, and he was sure they would all join him in hoping that the question would be settled peaceably and without bloodshed. (Cheers.) He had every confidence that it would be so settled, but it was only a matter of speculative opinion on his part, which was worth nothing, and no man present could say more.



## THE CAPTIVE COMMISSIONERS.

THEIR JOURNEY TO FORT WARREN.

United States' Marshal Murray, who boarded the San Jacinto as she was coming into New York with dispatches from Washington directing her to proceed to Boston harbour, and deposit the prisoners Slidell and Mason in Fort Warren, and who accompanied the captives on the voyage, reports the following incidents:—

The passage occupied five days, including one day's stoppage at Newport, where she put in for coal, and was exceedingly rough and unpleasant. The rebel Commissioners remained in the cabin nearly all the time, although they were allowed the freedom of the vessel. Mason came out on deck three or four times during the trip, but Slidell did not make his appearance outside the cabin. The Marshal was introduced to the prisoners on first going aboard, but held no conversation with them during the trip. The prisoners were not at all talkative with any one except themselves and their Secretaries, Eustace and McFarlane, and the only amusement they seemed to have was an occasional game of backgammon. When they were first taken on board, after their capture from the British steamer, Capt. Wilkes told them that he should endeavour to make them as comfortable as his means would permit, but he wished it distinctly understood that they were on a United States' Government vessel, and there must be no political talk on board. They messed with Capt. Wilkes during the trip, and were made as comfortable as the boisterous voyage would permit. On leaving the vessel the party bowed to Captain Wilkes, who remained behind, and embarking on board a steam-tug which was sent from the fort for the purpose, were conveyed with their luggage to the dock leading to the fort, which is about a quarter of a mile in length. After landing upon the dock, they were escorted to Fort Warren.

On arriving at the Fort, they were introduced to Col. Dimmick, who said: "Gentlemen, I am most happy to receive you in Fort Warren." The Marshal here informed the prisoners that he would be under the necessity of searching their baggage, and requested them to hand over their keys. They complied, and a thorough search was made, but no papers or dispatches of any kind were found. The Marshal then returned the keys, and the prisoners were shown to their quarters.

The probability is, says the American paper, that all the official papers were deposited in the mail-bag of the Trent, or they might have been transferred to the ladies who accompanied them, as there was ample time for that purpose before they were taken from the Trent.

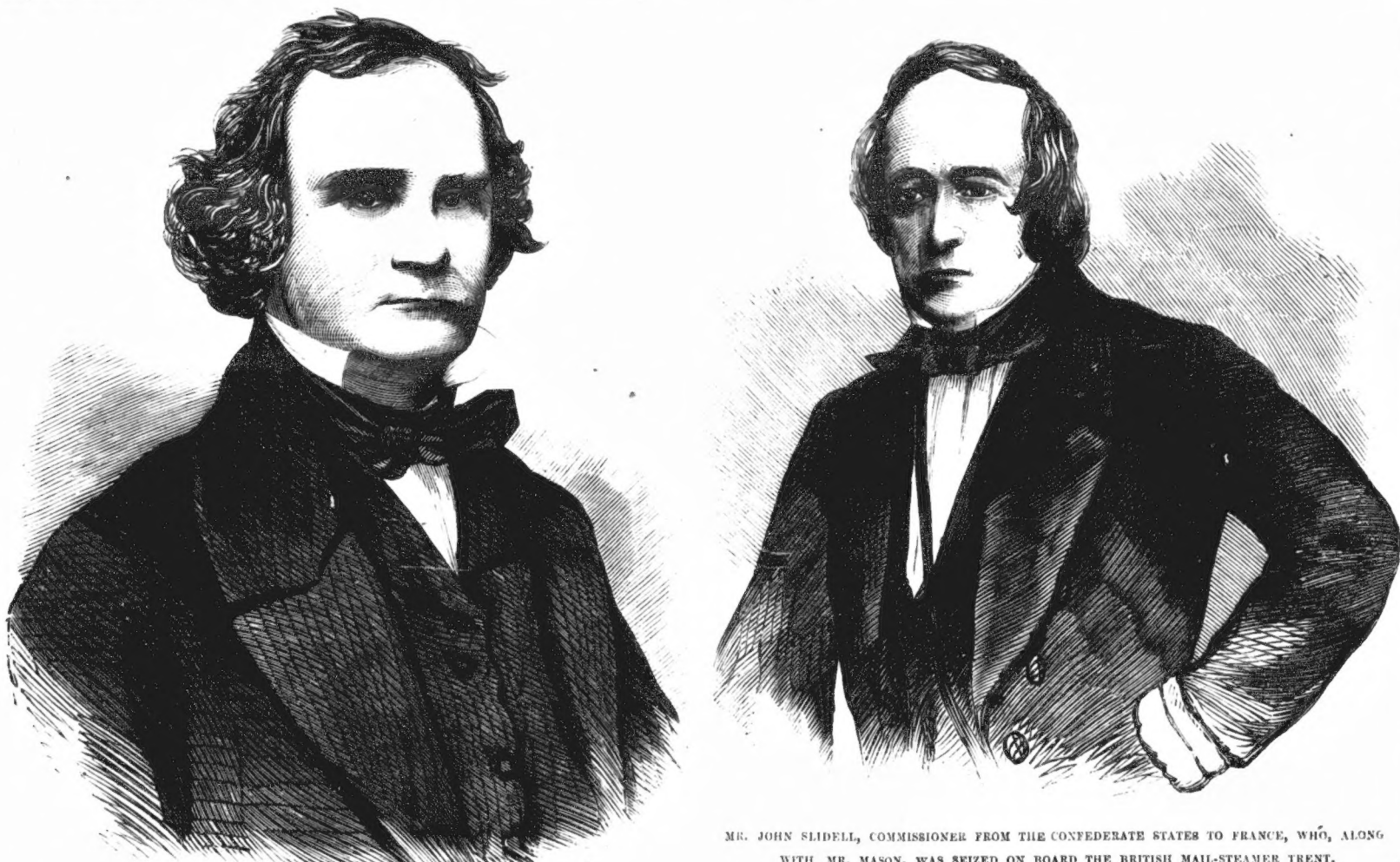
When the news of the capture of the commissioners first reached New York, it was accompanied by a report that Capt. Wilkes had expressed a doubt of the legality of his action, and said that he expected to be cashiered. This is a mistake. He understood well what he was about, and had informed himself as far as he was able on International law before the capture. While in Havana he procured the best authorities on the question he could find, and these, in addition to the works on International law which he previously had on board, confirmed him in the conviction that he would be thoroughly justified in the seizure. It was his original intention to seize the vessel as well as Slidell and Mason; but finding a large number of passengers on board, who would be greatly discommoded by such a procedure, he finally concluded to let her continue her journey. After capturing the prisoners, he steered the San Jacinto towards Port Royal, in hopes that he would be in time to take a hand in the fight at that place, but he was a little too late.

Accompanying this sketch, we furnish the portraits of the two Commissioners, from photographs received by the last

mail-steamer. It is somewhat singular that Mr. Mason, before the break-out of the great Southern rebellion, was one of the most outspoken members of Congress against British interests and the British people.

Mr. Slidell was born in 1793, in New York, where his father is said to have been a tallow chandler. In early manhood Mr. Slidell established himself in New Orleans in the practice of the law. His first public service appears to have been as United States' District Attorney at New Orleans, to which office he was appointed by General Jackson. He was frequently sent to the State Legislature of Louisiana, and was afterwards chosen one of the Louisiana delegation to Congress. In the House of Representatives he was remarked for his tact and skill as a manager, and his shrewdness and coolness in debate, and was for these public, aided by his private qualities, deputed by President Polk, on the outbreak of the war against Mexico in 1846, to proceed as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary to that republic. The numerous speeches in which he affirmed the policy, the expediency, and the necessity of annexing Mexican territory, and of taking possession of Cuba, either by conquest or by purchase, greatly increased his popularity in the South, and prepared the way for his nomination to the Senate. When the election of Mr. Lincoln first alarmed and next exasperated the South, Mr. Slidell threw himself with all energy into the cause of Secession. Mr. Mason is a man of scarcely less note. He was born in Virginia, in 1797; and is the lineal descendant of an ancient English cavalier—George Mason, a member of the British Parliament in the reign of Charles I., a staunch supporter of the royal prerogative, and an officer in the army of Charles II. at the battle of Worcester.

Like most Americans who devote themselves to public life, Mr. Mason studied law as a profession. In 1826 he was



MR. MASON, CONFEDERATE COMMISSIONER TO ENGLAND.

MR. JOHN SLIDELL, COMMISSIONER FROM THE CONFEDERATE STATES TO FRANCE, WHO, ALONG WITH MR. MASON, WAS SEIZED ON BOARD THE BRITISH MAIL-STEAMER TRENT, BY CAPTAIN WILKES OF THE FEDERAL STEAMER SAN JACINTO.

elected to the House of Assembly of his native State. After a long political pupillage in that minor school, he was promoted, in 1837, to the higher post of member of Congress. He only served one term, and achieved no particular distinction. In 1847 he was elected to the Senate, of which he has ever since been a member, having been thrice re-elected—the last time on the 4th March, 1857—to serve until March, 1863. He was Chairman of the Committee of the Senate for Foreign Relations when secession first became a fact, holding the office now filled by Mr. Charles Sumner.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

**WOMEN WANTED IN THE COLONIES.**—The necessity for the emigration of women is best seen by the following statistical tables, which have been collected from the latest and safest colonial reports:—Deficiency of women for New Zealand, 11,461; ditto Victoria, 138,579; ditto South Australia, 1,389; ditto West Australia, 4,207; total, 155,636, fewer women than men in the two islands of which we also possess statistical accounts! What would the disproportion be if we could include Natal, Canada, and Columbia, in the reckoning? Of the fearful reverse of this picture as exhibited in England it would be superfluous to speak; and if the vice and immorality on either side of the Atlantic are ever to be uprooted, it must be by some further extension of emigration, by the steady departure from these shores of our superfluous workers, and by an influx into the colonies of a body of women infinitely superior by birth, by education, and by taste, to the hordes of wild uneducated creatures we hitherto sent abroad.—*Miss Rye on Emigration.*

**ADULTERATION OF PICKLES, BOTTLED FRUITS, AND VEGETABLES.**—The *Lancet* of last week contains an important report upon the adulteration of pickles, bottled fruits, and vegetables, of which the following is a summary:—Of seven samples of green gages examined, four were found to be coloured with copper. Of five samples of gooseberries analysed, three contained that powerful and poisonous metal. A sample of rhubarb was also coloured with copper. Of ten samples of pickles, including French beans, gherkins, mixed pickles, and West India pickles, copper was found, in some cases in large amounts, in seven of the samples. Of five tins of preserved peas tested, that metal was present in two of the samples. Of four samples of haricot verts or French beans, three were highly coloured with copper, as well as a sample of mixed vegetables. Thus, of thirty-three samples analysed, copper was present, frequently in considerable amount, in no less than twenty-one of the samples, or nearly two-thirds. This result the *Lancet* regards as most disgraceful, and states that there is no excuse for it whatever. Bottled and preserved fruits and vegetables do not, in their preparation, come in contact with copper at all, and pickles may be prepared in utensils of iron. The pickles thus made are less green; but the fact of their being of better flavour and much more wholesome, ought to be more than sufficient to counterbalance so trifling a disadvantage. The blame in this case is asserted to rest mainly with certain of the manufacturers and preparers of these articles. If these would set their faces against a practice so dangerous, there would soon be an end of this discreditable adulteration. It should be known that the addition of copper to any vegetable substance

used as an article of food, is a violation of the recent Act for prevention of adulteration, and exposes the parties to prosecution.

**A CAPITAL HUNTING GROUND.**—The Belgian journals state that in the forest of Ardennes for the space of twenty years very few wild boars were seen, but that in the present year the forest is infested with them. On one day lately as many as twenty-five were seen together, and on others forty, sixty, and even a hundred. The latter were in a potato field close to the forest, and a gentleman who was out shooting fired at them, and though his gun was only loaded with shot killed one. Last week a singular incident occurred. A drove of pigs were sent to feed in a potato field near the village of Harre, on the borders of the forest—a number of wild boars rushed in among them—the pigs took fright and ran as fast as they could into the village, the wild animals accompanying them. All the men of the place were at work in the fields at the time, and the women and children, seeing the animals, rushed from the houses in dismay. Many of the pigs and their visitors entered the cottages, and did considerable damage. At last the wild boars returned of their own accord to the forest.

**RECORD OF WRECKS.**—We publish on Monday our usual monthly record of wrecks, from which it appears that the number of wrecks during the month of November was 298; in January the number was 202, in February 285, in March 133, in April 149, in May 142, in June 115, in July 91, in August 108, in September 146, and in October 119—making a total during the present year of 1,788.—*Shipping and Mercantile Gazette.*



EDMUND POTTER, ESQ., M.P. FOR CARLISLE.

We furnish this week an excellent portrait of the Member for Carlisle, engraved from a photograph recently taken—Mr. Potter who is in the prime of life is one of Manchester's Merchant Princes and belongs to what is called the advanced but not the most advanced school of politicians.

His recent contest for Carlisle will be fresh in the memory of our readers, when after an almost unexampled fight he was returned at the head of the Poll over the Tory Candidate by a majority of three.

Next week we shall furnish a biographical sketch from a quarter in which Mr. Potter is well known, it having been promised for the present publication, but not to hand at the time we went to press.

WAR PREPARATIONS.

THE Government is making every preparation for war should such a calamity be forced upon us. At our various naval stations and dock-yards, men are engaged night and day, and large stores of arms and ammunition are being sent to Canada and our West India stations. Various incorrect reports have been circulated respecting the regiments supposed to be under orders for Canada. The only battalions at present under orders are the 1st of the Rifle Brigade, and the 1st of the 16th. No doubt more will follow, as soon as transport can be obtained, and the course of the American Government is more decidedly apparent. The roster for service stands thus:—1st battalion 15th, 96th, 36th, 55th, 76th, 1st battalion 11th, 2nd battalion 12th, 58th, 45th, 1st battalion 10th. It is probable, however, that some of the new battalions would be sent out after the first six we have named. The brigade of Guards next for service consists of the 1st battalion Grenadier Guards, now at the Tower; 2nd battalion Coldstreams, and 2nd battalion Scots Fusiliers, both at Wellington Barracks. Colonel Napier, Deputy Quartermaster-General in Canada, is placed on the staff in that colony, with the rank of Major-General. He was through two Caffre wars, and is now the senior colonel of the army, so that this promotion is but a slight anticipation of the step to which he would succeed shortly in the ordinary course. He is succeeded as Deputy Quartermaster-General by Col. Mackenzie, C.B., who was on the China Staff. Colonel Lysons will be the Adjutant-General



EDMUND POTTER, ESQ., M.P., MEMBER FOR CARLISLE.

of Militia for the colony, and several officers from the half-pay list will be selected in the course of next week to direct the organization of the local militia and volunteers.

The Government have purchased for the use of the troops at Canada several thousands of leather waistcoats, of the kind that proved so beneficial in the Crimea during the late war.

A number of large steamers have been chartered by Government for transports and many of our war ships in dock are being

furnished up preparatory to being put in commission should they be required.

The steamer Adriatic, 4000 tons, recently purchased from the Americans for the Galway line, was on Monday taken up by government for the conveyance of troops and stores to Canada.

NAVAL RESERVE.—The following is a detail of the several reserves on the 1st instant:—Coast-guard on ships' books for shore duty, 232 officers, 3,386 men—3,618; ships' crews, 227 officers, 1,763 men, and 719 boys—2,709; tenders' crews, 107 officers, 574 men, and 166 boys—847; marines, 510. Total, 7,174. Old reserve force: 26 officers, 1,108 men. Naval coast volunteers, 7,768. Naval reserve force, 7,140. Total number of men available, 21,231.

Great enthusiasm has been shown in all the ports by the members of the reserve, who have generally expressed themselves ready for action whenever called upon. The spirit of this important branch of our naval power may be gathered from the following report from the Dundee Naval Volunteers. They declare that they are "ready to fulfil their engagements, to protect the honour of their flag, Queen, and country, whenever called upon." The following is a copy of the communication they have placed in the hands of Captain Beresford:—"Dundee Battery, Dec. 4, 1861. Sir,—Having heard that our flag has been insulted by an American ship of war, and the people who claimed its protection taken and made prisoners, and feeling it our duty to acquaint you that we are ready to fulfil our engagements, and protect the honour of our flag, Queen, and country whenever called upon to do so, we respectfully beg you will make our determination known in the proper quarters. (Signed) Royal Naval Reserve at Dundee Battery.

Similar returns have been received from nearly all the ports. Our illustration on this subject in the present number represents the spirit which was invoked in the Port of Shields, on the Tyne, when the news of the "outrage" reached it.

THE WARD OF ALDERSGATE AND MR. BESLEY.—The requisition to Mr. Besley, the eminent type-founder, to allow himself to be put in nomination for the vacancy in the representation of the ward of Aldersgate, has already been so numerous signed as to preclude the possibility of any other candidate coming forward. Mr. Besley's succeeding to the vacant aldermanic gown is now placed beyond a doubt.



THE AMERICAN OUTRAGE—THE NAVAL RESERVE MARCHING THROUGH SHIELDS.



## LAW AND POLICE.

**MURDER OF A POLICEMAN IN THE FOREST OF DEAN.**—The case, which has created no little excitement, came on for hearing in the presence of a crowded court at Gloucester, on Friday. The names of the prisoners are George Cooper, 29, collier; Thomas Cooper, 29, collier; Richard Roberts, 31, collier; and Thomas Gwilliam, 31, quarryman. They were charged with the wilful murder of Sergeant Samuel Beard at East Dean; they were also charged, on the coroner's inquisition, with manslaughter of the said Samuel Beard. Messrs. Powell and Gripps prosecuted; Messrs. Griffiths and Evans defended Roberts; Mr. Cooke being instructed on behalf of the other prisoners. The hearing of the case occupied the greater part of the day. The facts are briefly as follows:—On the night of the 15th of August last the four prisoners were drinking together at the Speech-house Inn, in the Forest of Dean, where they were met by the deceased (Sergeant Beard) and a farmer named Guest. Beard, it should be mentioned, had been requested by Guest to watch some sheep he had on the common, as frequent depredations had been made amongst them, and he was anxious to discover the delinquents. After remaining at the Speech-house a short time, Beard and Guest proceeded to the forest, where, seeing four men, they separated, and took different directions. After perambulating the fields for about ten minutes Guest returned to somewhere near the spot where he had left Beard, and his attention was then arrested by some "bubbling." Dick and the other three prisoners were unable to find out the precise spot whence the sound came, but in a few minutes afterwards as the three men whom he had previously seen emerge from the field, followed by a fourth. He searched about the forest the whole of the night, having previously arranged to meet Beard at a certain spot, and towards daylight he found Beard lying on the ground near the spot where he heard the blows on the previous evening. Finding him to be entirely helpless, and observing that his face was covered with blood, Guest went to the Speech-house for assistance, when the poor fellow was immediately removed, during which operation he repeatedly asked to be allowed to lie down and die. Medical assistance was called in, and the officer being considered to be in a critical state it was deemed necessary to "bring in a declaration." For this purpose, one of the magistrates, J. F. Brinkley Esq., was sent for, and in his presence, and in the presence of a medical man, the deceased described the manner in which he had met with his injuries. He stated that after Guest left he saw the four prisoners setting nets for the purpose of catching hares. One of the dogs they had with them started a hare, which was run into a net, and then he (Beard) made his appearance, and seizing hold of Thomas Cooper, received a severe blow upon his head from one of the others. He then drew his staff and dealt Thomas Cooper a blow, when he was suddenly attacked by the others and felled to the ground, where he lay, and did not remember more until he was picked up in the morning, and carried to the Speech-house. That concluded his declaration. A day or two afterwards the prisoners were shown into Beard's room, to stand trial, and identified by him as the parties who had struck him in the forest. The poor fellow lingered on for eight days, and then expired. In the course of the trial it transpired, in the medical testimony, that the deceased's teeth were broken, which must have been done with an iron instrument, or something harder than wood; and a large rasp was found to have been in the possession of Gwilliam that night. The post-mortem examination showed that the deceased's skull was fractured on the left side, and that the brain was severely injured, which injury was the immediate cause of death. The defence set up was that the deceased had interfered with the men in a most unwarrantable manner, and that the death was merely the result of sedition and not of any malicious intent, or with any wilful intent. The jury found them all guilty of manslaughter, and they were sentenced each to fifteen years' penal servitude.

**CHILD MURDER.**—At Maidstone last week before Mr. Justice Williams, Jane Anne Moore, 19, a very good-looking girl, was charged by an indictment, and also upon the coroner's inquisition, with the wilful murder of her newly-born female child. Mr. Baron conducted the prosecution. The prisoner was defended by Mr. Ribton. The circumstances of this case were of a very distressing character. It appeared that the prisoner was in the service of Mr. Pankhurst, a farmer, at Stone, and that on the night of the 21st of October her master's daughter heard her get up and go down stairs several times, and she inquired what was the matter with her, and she replied that she was poorly. On the following morning there was some suspicion that she had been delivered of a child during the night, but she declared that it was not so. The family were not satisfied with her denial, and procured the assistance of Mr. Terry, a medical gentleman residing in the neighbourhood, and he soon ascertained that the suspicions that entertained were correct, and he made a search about the premises, and in a wood-lodge he found the dead body of a female child in an old green bag. The body was quite cold, and upon it being examined it was discovered that a handkerchief had been tied tightly twice round the neck, with a knot in front, and it had been drawn so tight that it was with considerable difficulty removed. Upon a post-mortem examination the surgeon discovered congestion of the brain, which is an indication of death by strangulation, and there were other appearances which induced Mr. Terry to express an opinion that the child had been born alive, and that it was strangled immediately after birth; and this opinion was strengthened by the additional facts, that the infant appeared to be full grown and perfectly developed, and that during the night when Miss Pankhurst was disturbed by the prisoner going down stairs, under the circumstances above stated, she heard a faint cry, apparently proceeding from an infant. It also appeared that shortly after the discovery a woman in whose charge she had been placed asked the prisoner how she came to do such a thing, and she replied that she did not know what she was about, and added that the child was nearly dead when it was born. It will be seen that these were very strong facts in support of the charge; but upon Mr. Terry being cross-examined, he said that the cry referred to might have been made by the child before it was born, and that it was not the same time said that if the handkerchief had been tied round the throat of the child while it was alive he should have expected other appearances than those he observed upon the body of the deceased child. Mr. Ribton made a most feeling appeal to the jury on behalf of the unhappy prisoner, and Mr. Justice Williams having summed up, the jury, after a short deliberation, found the prisoner not guilty of murder, but guilty of unlawfully endeavouring to conceal the birth, and she was sentenced to be imprisoned and kept to hard labour for one year.

**THE EXTRAORDINARY CASE OF LOVE AND SUICIDE.**—Jemima Morgan, otherwise Elizabeth Thompson, 19, servant, Astor, Whittington, near Oswestry, was charged at Chester, before Mr. Justice Crompton, with the wilful murder of one George Henry Davies, of Chester, on the 27th October last. The prisoner pleaded not guilty. Mr. H. Lloyd and Mr. Antrobus appeared for the prosecution, and the prisoner was defended by Mr. McIntyre. The facts of the case having been detailed by the counsel for the prosecution, the following statement, volunteered by the prisoner to the hospital surgeon, was put in:—"I went to Liverpool with Geo. Henry Davies yesterday. After being there some time, we had some refreshment, and took a late train for Chester. During our journey he showed me a bottle which he said contained laudanum, and said that he was determined to poison himself. I said, 'You shall do no such thing,' and at the same time took the bottle from his hands and emptied it out of the window, saying, 'No, you never shall, for if you die I'll die also.' From the refreshment-room at the Chester station we walked to Mrs. Wooten's. About eight o'clock we went back to Frodsham-street, and he wrote a prescription, which the boy of the house took to the nearest druggist in Foregate-street. About eleven o'clock we went upstairs and sat in our room. After being there about a quarter of an hour, Davies again expressed his wish to take the poison. We then agreed that he should pour out my portion and that I should pour out his. He saw that I delayed to touch the glass when the fluid was poured out, and he said, 'I will take all of it.' He then filled our glasses with some bitter beer we had purchased whilst walking along the streets. I still failed to touch mine, and he leaned over as if to take all of it. I then took it up and swallowed the whole contents of the glass—the beer and laudanum mixed. He then swallowed his portion. We got into bed, and in about a quarter of an hour after he began to breathe rather heavily. I became alarmed, got up, and called for assistance. Two persons who were in the house came upstairs immediately, and, seeing the state in which we were, sent off for a surgeon. On his arrival he recommended them to convey us to the infirmary. I did not give Davies the laudanum; he took up the glass and swallowed the contents. I put in his glass about two ounces, and I believe he put the same in mine. I had been living with him about three weeks. He gave me this ring. He came from Shropshire. He has had a great deal of money lately, with which he was to have set up in business, but instead of doing so he has spent it. All this caused him to despond very much, and on that account he determined to do away with himself. He has been doing nothing for the past three months; before that time he was assistant to a chemist and druggist at Llandudno. I have been in Chester about six months. I did not know Davies before he made my acquaintance. I left home because I hated my father; he behaved very badly towards his family. I have several brothers and sisters. I am determined not to return home." It was stated that the prisoner afterwards

made the most affectionate inquiries about Davies, and appeared rather surprised that the poison had not taken such a serious effect upon herself. Three letters, left at the City Arms Inn to be posted, were put in and read. Mr. McIntyre addressed the jury at great length, passing severe comments on the evidence, and referring to a case tried in 1811, of an almost exactly similar nature to this. The learned judge having summed up, the jury found the prisoner not guilty. The verdict was received with tremendous cheering, waving of hats, &c., by the numerous persons who filled the court.

**TRADE SWINDLING.**—George McGregor, who has been carrying on his peculiar line of business in Wood-street in the name of "Hugh Jones and Co.," and in Gutter-lane in that of "McGregor Brothers," and whose proceedings we have already reported, was last week at the Guildhall committed for trial on three charges of fraud. The evidence adduced showed a wholesale system of fraudulent trading.

**WIFE MURDER.**—A man named John Atkins has been tried at Maidstone for the murder of his wife. The deed, which was committed under circumstances of peculiar atrocity, was clearly brought home to him by the evidence of his daughter, a girl of eleven years of age, who witnessed and detailed the circumstances of the murder. It appeared from other witnesses that the unfortunate couple had lived a wretched life for some time previous, the husband being inflamed with jealousy, for which, however, there appeared no reasonable cause. The counsel for the prisoner rested his defence on the plea of insanity, and the jury returned a verdict of not guilty on that ground.

**SERIOUS CHARGE OF AN INDECENT ASSAULT UPON A FEMALE, AND MURDEROUS ASSAULT UPON THE HUSBAND.**—COMMITTAL OF THE PRISONER.—At Clerkenwell on Tuesday Henry Smith, a ruffianly looking fellow, in the garb of a labourer, and in the employ of the contractors for the underground railway, was charged with committing an indecent assault upon Eliza Navin; also with assaulting her husband and a female named Brennan, under the following circumstances:—Mr. Navin said she was the wife of John Navin, who carried on business as a greengrocer, in Holborn-street. Shortly after eleven o'clock on Sunday night she was with her husband in Water-lane, when the prisoner came up and put his hand in a most indecent manner up her dress. Her husband asked him what he meant by doing that, whereupon he struck him a tremendous blow and knocked him down, and then kicked him several times in the back in a most shocking manner. The husband fully corroborated this evidence. Prisoner merely said he was sorry for what he had done, and hoped to be leniently dealt with. Mr. Barker said he considered it a most serious case, and he should commit him for trial on the three charges. The worthy magistrate then ordered 20s. to be given to John Navin, and 5s. to Mary Brennan.

**SAVERS AND LIENERS AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM.**—At Bow-street on Tuesday Mr. George Newbold, the well-known sporting publisher of 36, Abchurch-lane, was summoned at the instance of the authorities of the British Museum, for neglecting to forward to the Museum, in compliance with the provisions of the Act of Parliament, a copy of a book published by him entitled "A History of the Contest between Savers and Lieners." Mr. Newbold stated that the omission to send a copy of the work to the Museum was a purely accidental oversight. Though he had been for many years engaged in the publication of printed engravings, especially those connected with sporting matters, this was the first time that he had published a book. He should be happy to present the museum with half a dozen copies of the work if required, and he would positively undertake that such an omission should never occur again. Under these circumstances Mr. Winter Jones, keeper of the printed books at the Museum, consented to withdraw the prosecution on payment of the expenses—ten guineas. Several similar summonses against other publishers were settled in the same manner.

## ACCIDENTS AND OFFENCES.

**ATTEMPTED MURDER AND SUICIDE IN SHEFFIELD.**—An awful double crime was perpetrated last week at Sheffield. Eliza Fisher, a young woman, aged about 20, had, until a month ago, been living with her father-in-law, Thomas Townsend, a scissors maker at Attercliffe. It is believed that the young woman lived with her father-in-law on immoral terms, and that he was the father of a child which she had some time since, and who died. About a month ago she left him, being disgusted with her way of life, and was employed by Mrs. Travis, of Carline-street East, Sheffield, as a domestic servant. Townsend had frequently endeavoured to persuade her to return to him, but she persisted in refusing. Yesterday morning, about 12 o'clock, he called at Mrs. Travis's, and the young girl went outside to talk to him. They remained in conversation about ten minutes; but Mrs. Travis heard nothing unusual till the sound of a pistol struck her ear. She immediately opened the door, and was met by the girl, who staggered towards her, threw up her arms, and fell on the doorway. Almost instantly following, Mrs. Travis heard the report of another pistol. Police-constable King, who was on duty in the neighbourhood, hastened to the spot on hearing the noise. He found Townsend lying on his back, quite dead. His coat was fastened across with string, and a piece in the centre of the coat, and also in the waistcoat underneath, was completely blown away by the effect of the shot. A corresponding hole was drilled into the body over the heart, and the heart and part of the lungs were exposed to view. His waistcoat and shirt were saturated with blood. He must have put the pistol close to him, over his heart, and the effect must have been instantaneous death. The pistols were discovered, recently fired. The unfortunate young woman was seriously injured, the shot having passed through her dress and stays and entered the left side. It is feared that the injury may terminate fatally.

**SHOCKING TRAGEDY IN SUSSEX.**—A tragedy of a most heart-rending character has just been enacted at the village of Slaughton, about six miles from Haywards Heath; and from the painful circumstances which it is surrounded, and the position of the parties concerned, has caused a deep feeling of excitement to prevail. It appears that for some time past, a Mr. Agate has occupied a farm in the village, and with him resided, amongst other persons, his wife and two little boys aged respectively four and years six old, the family being much respected. The unfortunate wife has for some short period been indisposed, though no serious results were entertained until within the past few days, when her conduct became such as to cause her friends some uneasiness, and in consequence, she was pretty carefully watched by those around her. Things continued to proceed in this manner until Friday morning, when shrieks were heard to proceed from the farm house, and, an alarm having been given, several persons at once went to the house, and afterwards slight difficulty in effecting an entrance to the scene of this tragic occurrence immediately made an examination of the injured persons, and in the case of the younger boy it was clearly evident that death must have taken place some time, and from the nature of the wounds, there was no doubt that death must have been instantaneous, for on a minute examination of the injured parts it was found that the whole of the muscles of the neck, except those immediately connected with the vertebra, as well as the vital artery, were divided. From all the appearances it would seem that the cut had been sharply and vigorously made, as the head was all but severed from the trunk. With regard to the elder boy, although life still existed, the severe nature of his wounds (from their critical position) created great anxiety in the minds of the professional gentlemen as to the result of the attack which had been made upon him. He was quite insensible when found, having lost a great deal of blood, and is not considered out of danger. From the nature of the wounds it would appear that they were inflicted with a razor; and this impression is confirmed by the fact that in the hands of the mother was such a weapon when she was found. The mother was suffering from several wounds in the throat, but these were not of so severe a nature as in the case of the eldest boy, and immediate danger is not apprehended, although considerable doubt exists as to whether she will recover from the injuries manifestly inflicted upon herself. The subject is now undergoing inquiry.

**HORRIBLE CHARGE AGAINST A FATHER.**—At the Portsmouth Police-court, last week, a seaman-pensioner, named William Marks, aged 48, was charged with having committed a rape on his married daughter, the wife of a carpenter. He was further charged with having attempted the same revolting act on his youngest daughter a girl eight years, but the latter case was not gone into. The details of the case were unfit for publication. He was committed for trial at the ensuing Winchester assizes on the first charge. A few days

since a soldier of the 18th Regiment named Campbell was also fully committed upon a similar charge, the victim being a servant girl named Mary Ann Pearce.

**DARING ROBBERY IN BRIGHTON.**—A robbery lately took place at No. 10, Oriental-place, Brighton, which is let as a lodging-house by Mr. Anson. Lady Ponsonby and Lady Bathurst occupied one portion of the apartments, and Mrs. Scobell and a female friend another portion. From what we have been able to learn, there are five servants in the two establishments above mentioned, and two servants connected with the house, all of whom, with one or two exceptions at the most, were engaged below stairs in providing a six o'clock dinner and a seven o'clock dinner, and there is no doubt that, whilst they were thus engaged, the thief walked into the house by the front door, which the found unfastened, and by that means he obtained an easy access to the interior; but the daring of the delinquent will be shown by the sequel. Lady Ponsonby and Lady Bathurst were dining in the first room on the ground floor, and it appears that whilst they were so occupied the thief must have opened the front door and walked into the room at the back of the dining room, for Lady Ponsonby missed from that room a valuable brooch, although the thief overlooked two valuable pins which were also there. It was fortunate for the lady that she took her gold watch and appendages into the dining room with her, as she has been in the habit of leaving them behind, otherwise she might have gone alone. It seems that the thief then went up stairs to the first bed-room floor. He gave a gentle tap at the back bedroom, and the lady's-maid, who was there, answered to the tap, "walk in." But the thief was too wide awake to "walk in," as invited; he deliberately walked into the front bed-room, occupied by Mrs. Scobell, and possessed himself of a valuable dressing-case, not knowing at all what it contained, and then quietly pursued his way down stairs, and got clear off with his booty. It was at least half an hour before the dressing-case was missed, and then, of course, a great stir was made, the police were at once acquainted with the robbery as soon as possible. About nine o'clock the same evening four boys brought a very beautiful dressing-case to the Town Hall, with nothing in except a new chain, and it was soon ascertained that the dressing case belonged to Mrs. Scobell. These boys were in Gloucester-lane, and saw four men deposit something up an avenue, and after they had walked away the boys found the case. It has further been ascertained that three men, genteelly attired, dined at a eating house in the Queen's-road on the same day, and in the evening they went there for some refreshment, and before they left they asked to be shown into a bed-room to wash their hands. The request was complied with, and it is no doubt that it was for the purpose of there breaking open the case, which contained jewellery, it is said, to the value of £1,000. They, no doubt, pocketed the contents, and after that deposited the empty case where it was found. A reward of £50 has been offered for the discovery of the thief.

**DEATH FROM CHLOROFORM.**—On Saturday Mr. Brent held an inquest on the body of Charles Gibbs, deceased, on the 3rd inst., had, whilst intoxicated, met with an accident by which one of his ankles was fractured. On being taken to University College Hospital, it was deemed necessary to administer chloroform while the fracture was being reduced, and under its influence he died. Verdict, "Accidental death from chloroform, administered in a surgical operation."

**ALARMING FIRES AND PROBABLE LOSS OF LIFE.**—During Saturday night and Sunday morning four fires took place in the metropolis, one of which, it is feared, will result in the loss of life. One fire happened between the hours of one and two o'clock, on the premises belonging to Mr. Hopton, a laundress, No. 9, Charles-street, Shepherd's-bush Market. A fire broke out in the ironing stove, which ignited a quantity of linen and wearing apparel. About midnight another fire happened in the premises of Mr. W. M. Moran, No. 3, Kemp's-court, Bevis-street, Soho. This fire took place in the first floor, and was caused from a spark flying from a live coal in the grate. In a short time the firemen arrived, and the flames were extinguished, but not until a son of Mr. M. Moran, about eight years of age, was so much burned that he was obliged to be removed to the hospital, where he at present remains without the least chance of recovery. Another fire broke out in the premises of Mr. Smith, a tailor, No. 5, Tenter-street, North, White-chapel. When discovered the fire had obtained a strong hold of the lower part of the house. The flames were not extinguished until the whole of the premises and their contents were severely damaged by fire and water. The cause of the fire is unknown. Shortly before four o'clock, yesterday morning, a fire broke out in the premises of Mr. M. C. Mackey, No. 40, Hyde-place, Westminster, in which a fire was caused by a spark flying from a lighted candle, which ignited the bed and bedding. The inmates and the firemen, under Mr. Campbell, succeeded in getting the flames extinguished, but not until considerable damage was done.

**SHOCKING ACCIDENT ON THE SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.**—An accident of a very shocking character took place in the South-Western Railway on Friday evening, at the Portsmouth Station, about two miles from Southampton. Mrs. Chamberlain, the wife of one of the railway telegraph inspectors, had just descended the steps leading from the bridge on to the line at the temporary station recently erected at Portsmouth, and was about to cross the main line just as the signal was put on for the five o'clock down train from London to pass. Mr. Noakes, the station-master at Portsmouth, seeing the imminent danger in which Mrs. Chamberlain was, ran across the line to save her, and just reached her and pushed her backwards out of harm's way, but unhappily the buffer of the engine caught the unfortunate man's shoulder, and hurled him nearly 50 feet along the line, literally smashing him to pieces. The deceased, who was till lately a ticket collector at the Southampton terminus, whence he was promoted for good conduct to Portsmouth Station as master, has left four children and a widow, who, we regret to add, is in a state of pregnancy. An inquest was held on Saturday, when a verdict of accidental death was returned, the jury expressing to the woman whose life was saved by the deceased that her carelessness was highly reprehensible in not looking more circumspectly where she was going, and it had been the primary cause of the unhappy man losing his life.

**TOTAL LOSS OF TWO VESSELS.**—GREAT YARMOUTH.—On Monday, twenty-five shipwrecked seamen, the crews of two vessels which were totally lost on the sands off this coast, were received into the Sailor's Home at this port. One was the crew of the barque *Annals*, of Sunderland, from Hartlepool for Arica (Peru), coals and coke, Townsend master, which left Hartlepool on Thursday last, having on board seventeen hands and a pilot of the Downs. At twelve the next night the wind blowing hard, and weather thick with rain, she took the ground on the inner edge of the Harbourside Sands, and immediately began to fill. Signals were made for assistance, but not being answered, the crew got into the boat, leaving almost everything behind, and were received on board the lightskip, where they remained until Sunday, when they were taken off and landed here. The *Annals* was a fine vessel, of 451 tons register, and her estimated value, with cargo, was £4,250. The ship, which has since disappeared in the sands, was insured. The second vessel was the brig *Hesper*, of Whitby, from Middlesbrough for London (coals), Clarke master, which was carried on the Scroby Sands on Saturday night, in consequence of the wind, which had been moderate, suddenly lulling, and the sea running high, it having blown a gale during the day. After beating heavily several times she began to fill, and the crew took to the boat and remained near until her lights had disappeared in the sands. They landed here at two a.m. on Sunday. The brig was 145 tons register, and with cargo was valued at £200. She was insured. This makes the fourth vessel which, within a week, has been lost off this coast; the other two being the brig *Ivy*, of Seaham, which was run down the previous Saturday night by the schooner *Royalist*, of London, and the brig *Nora*, of Sunderland, which foundered on the Scroby Sands on Tuesday night.

## OPINIONS OF THE PRESS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC.

## BRITISH NEWSPAPERS.

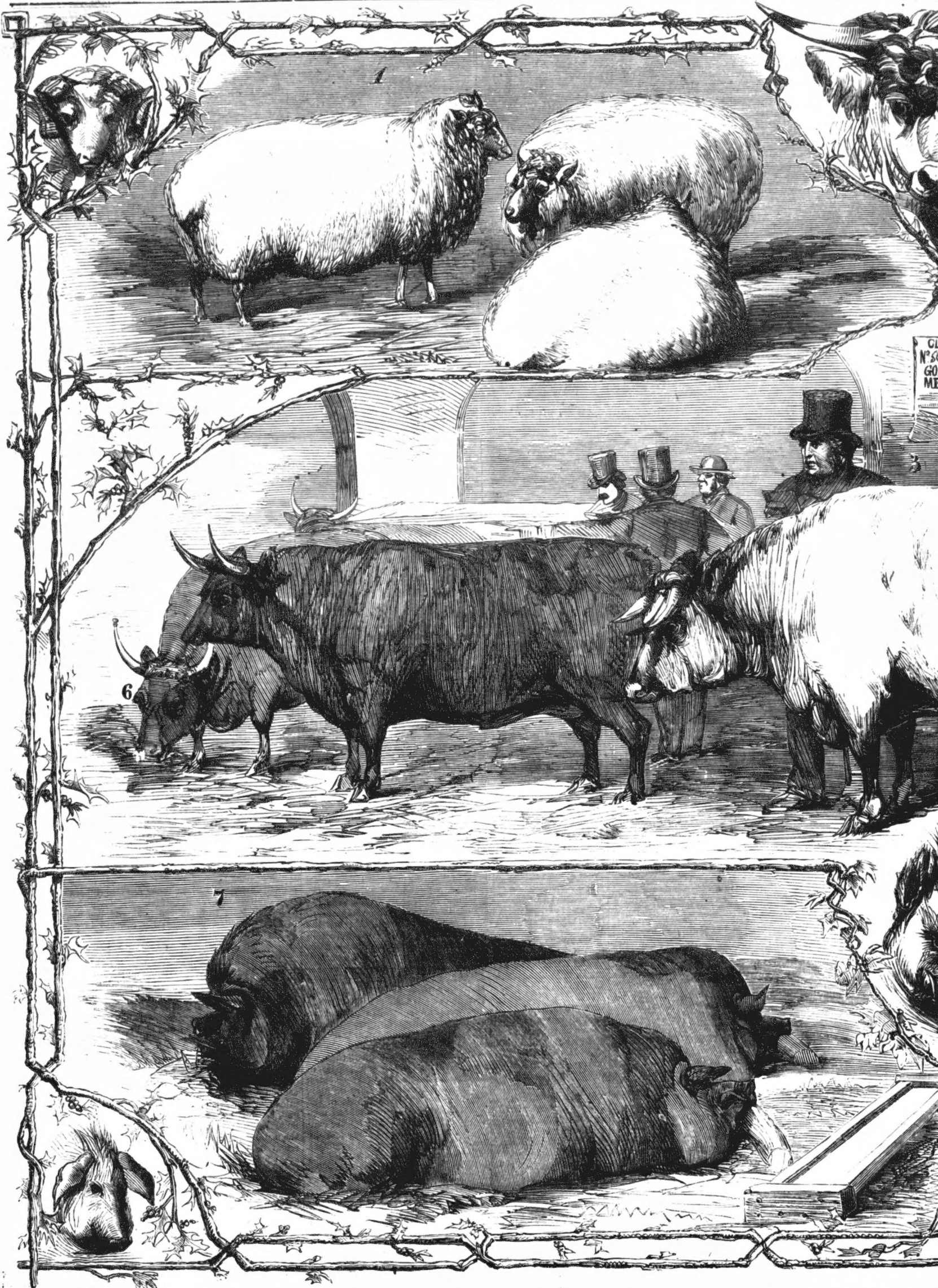
**SPECTATOR.**—On the whole, then we cannot doubt that a war would do much to annihilate the remnant of that British trade with the Northern States which civil strife and the Morrill tariff has left, and to impede the large supplies of grain which we have drawn thence of late years; that it would seriously embarrass Canada and the West Indies; to some considerable extent endanger our colonial trade in those parts of the world where an increase greatly the cost of all the Australian and Indian trade which has to cross the Atlantic. On the other hand, it would annihilate the Northern States' commerce, render its shipping, which is exceedingly deficient in steam power, almost useless, and restore the cotton prospects of the South. Assuredly neither England nor America can anticipate with any satisfaction such results as these. The real advantage would be reaped by the slave States on the one hand, and the neutral Powers—like France, and Holland, and Russia—on the other, whose commercial marines would suddenly acquire an adventitious value.

**LEADS MERCURY.**—But after all, is it well to judge so great a question on merely technical issues? Supposing the statesmen and lawyers of America really believe the Southern Commissioners to have been contrary to the laws of war, may we not look with somewhat lenient eyes on their unwillingness to give them up again on account of a mere technicality—however dangerous that informality may be as a precedent?









SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.—1. MR. G. S. FOLJAMBE WORKSOP—LEICESTER SHEEP. 2. MR. J. OVERMAN, BURNHAM SUTTON, NORFOLK—LONG AND SHORT WOOLLED GROSS-  
5. MR. W. HEATH, LUDHAM-HALL, NORFOLK—DEVON STEER. 6. MR. W. HEATH, LUDHAM-HALL, NORFOLK—DEVON COW. 7. MR. J. COATE, HAMMOON, DORSET.





1. GROSS-BRED WETHER SHEEP. 2. MR. G. TAYLOR, SEWERBY COITAGE, BRIDLINGTON, YORKSHIRE—SHORT-HORNED STEER. 3. MR. T. G. TUCK, STRUMPSHAW-HALL, NORFOLK—SHORT-HORNED HEIFER. 4. MR. G. BEALE, EROLKSWORTH, LEICESTER—PIGS OF ANY BREED, ABOVE 8 AND NOT EXCEEDING 12 MONTHS.







## Literature.

Mr. J. Macmillan announces six new novels in the press:—"For Money," by Mrs. Macmillan; "Scapto," by Mr. J. Neale; "Whallbrook, or Desolate," by Mr. J. Neale; "Montfontaine, or a Marriage at the Madeline," by Mr. J. Neale; "The Cost of a Coronet," by Mr. J. Neale; and "The Cost of a Coronet," by Mr. J. Neale.

A cheap edition of the works of "George Eliot," each novel complete in one volume, is announced by Messrs. W. Blackwell and Sons. The series will commence in January with "Adam Bede," and will be continued monthly.

Scott's novels for one shilling each. Messrs. Adam and Charles Black announce that, consequent on the repeal of the duty, they will issue each of the Waverley novels, "with the author's introductions, notes and emendations," at one shilling each. The series will commence with "Waverley," and will be continued monthly until its completion.

Messrs. Macmillan and Co. announce for the spring a volume by Mr. Cyril Graham, "On Syria as a Province of the Ottoman Empire," being a sketch of the political history of Syria under Turkish rule, and comprising a detailed account of the war in Lebanon and the massacres of 1860, with considerations of the future prospects of the province.

Mr. Montgomery Martin has in preparation a work on India and the Colonies, which will be published next year, as a guide to their contributions to the Great Exhibition. Mr. Martin has drawn together on the vast treasures of information buried in the blue books which each colony sends annually to her Secretary of State.

*Presse de Londres* is about to commence as a daily newspaper. The project of another French daily, lately advertised, has, we hear, been abandoned.

Mr. J. M. Ludlow and Mr. Thomas Hughes are about to issue in the production of a work on the United States, both to the side of the North with vehemence. Mr. Ludlow will write "A Sketch of the History of the United States from Independence to Secession," and Mr. Hughes "The Story of Kansas."

Messrs. W. and R. Chambers have issued the prospectus of their new publication, "The Book of Days," the issue of which will commence in January, in weekly numbers and monthly parts, and will be completed in two, or at the utmost three volumes, in the same number of years.

General McClellan's Report of his visit to Europe and examination of the English and Continental armies has been published in a popular edition by Messrs. J. B. Lippincott and Co. of Philadelphia. Heretofore this report, has only been accessible in a Government quarto.

The ninth volume of "Bancroft's History of the United States" will be out immediately. Mr. Bancroft expects to complete his work in three, or at most four, more volumes.

Mr. Johnstone is erecting a large paper mill at Barnsill Farm, near Alva, for the manufacture of paper from wood ground to dust. The invention is a French one, and has been patented.

Warwickshire is stirring in good earnest on behalf of the Shakespeare Fund. At Birmingham an influential committee has been formed, chiefly through the exertions of Mr. A. Ryland, the late mayor. Sir Robert Hamilton, Bart., of Avon, acts as local secretary for Stratford and neighbourhood, assisted at Leamington by Dr. Thomson, and at Warwick by Mr. R. C. Heath.

"Quærens," with its English words, will be performed at one of Mr. C. Hallé's concerts, in Manchester, on the 12th of December.

A small work on the "History of Infantry" is shortly to issue from the press of Messrs. Quaritch, of Piccadilly, so famous for producing so little, and for that little being so refined and good. The author is Lieutenant Stuart, of her Majesty's Bengal army, one of the many officers whose occupation, for a time at least, is gone.

Messrs. Marlborough's great Christmas book is by Miss Meteyard ("Silverpen"), a *nom du plume* furnished for the writer by the late Douglas Jerrold, about "Hallowed Spots of Ancient London." The work is to be beautifully illustrated.

Mr. John Hollingshead is about to produce a new volume to be published by Messrs. Groombridge. It is to be an extension of the papers which appeared in the pages of *All the Year Round*, under the title of "Underground London."

A new edition of the works of Benjamin Constant has been recently published in Paris. It is edited by M. Edouard Laboulaye, Member of the Institute; is illustrated by notes, and with an introduction, containing a complete *exposé* of Constant's political philosophy.

**CATTLE'S MARKS OF A FINE COW.**—Wide horns, a thin head and neck, developed large, full breast, broad back, large deep belly, under capacious, but not too fleshy, milk veins prominent, and the bag tending far behind, teats long and large, buttocks round and fleshy, tail long and pliable, legs proportioned to size of carcass, and joints short.

**CRITERION OF AGE IN HORSED CATTLE.**—These are derived from the teeth and horns. At the end of two years they shed their first four teeth, which are replaced by others larger, but not so white, and before five years all the incisive teeth are renewed; their teeth are at first equal, long, and white; but as the animals advance in years they wear down, become unequal, and grow black. In the fourth year of the animal's age two small pointed horns make their appearance, neatly formed, smooth, and towards the head terminated by a kind of button. The following year moves from the head, being impelled by a horny cylinder, which lengthens in the same manner, is also terminated by another button, and so on, for the horns continue growing as long as the animal lives. These buttons become annular joints or rings. Dishonest dealers sometimes obliterate these rings by shaving the horns.

**CRITERION OF HEALTHY SHEEP.**—A wild brisk look, brightness in the eye, a florid ruddy colour on the inside of the lips, and what are termed the eye strings, as well as in the firmness in the teeth, fragrance of breath, dryness of the tongue. The age of sheep is indicated by the teeth. They have two broad teeth in their second year, four in the third, six in the fourth year, and eight in the fifth year. After that the age can only be guessed by the teeth, being more or less worn, or defective in colour. All horned sheep show their age by their horns, as they exhibit an additional ring annually.

## SMITHFIELD CLUB CHRISTMAS FAT CATTLE SHOW.

The most important agricultural gathering of the winter season is now opened. Baker-street Bazaar is thrown open by the Smithfield Club for the exhibition of the very finest productions of cattle-feeders and breeders. Rotund oxen, fat sheep, and obese pigs, will for the next four days draw within the walls of the bazaar crowds of partly farmers, come to admire the result of the skill of their neighbours and themselves, and hosts of Londoners who seek to extend their knowledge of that part of the animal creation upon which they feed, and which knowledge, according to the Hon. Mr. Cowper, is at present mainly confined to the joints which they now see hung up in the butchers' shops. This is the last year in which the show of the Smithfield Club is to be held in the Baker-street Bazaar. Next year it migrates to the new Agricultural Hall at Islington, where it will have more room to extend itself. This show, therefore, may be regarded as the last effort of the Baker-street Bazaar, and unquestionably, while it is the last, it will rank among the greatest. The number of entries of cattle is not so large as on some previous occasions; but when quality is taken into consideration the show will bear comparison with any of its predecessors.

Beginning with the Devons, we find nothing to condemn.

The judges, in awarding the prizes, have evidently disregarded mere size. Small, compact, well-formed, regular-shaped animals have had far more favour in their eyes, and very properly, than large-boned, tall, fat beasts wanting in symmetry and in beef. This observation will probably apply to all classes. But it has very great force in regard to the Devons. The prize animals are all small, but marvellously compact.

Their horns and backs are perfect models of what such things should be. The beast shown by Earl Howe in Class 2, and which took the first prize and silver medal, has a back like a table, and loins which are in truth huge, but well-shaped masses of beef. It may be very fairly assumed that the prize animals are all good, but it may also be mentioned that an ox shown in Class 2, by Mr. Henry Hine Pall, of Hankridge Farm, West Monckton, Taunton, attracted very considerable attention.

It is a much larger beast than that which took the prize, and by no means so symmetrical; but it was evidently a meat-making animal, which would have taken the prize had it had anything like inferior cattle to the prize-taker's to compete with; as it is, it has received the commendation of the judges. The Devon heifers and cows are capital. It would be very difficult to find fault with any of them. Among the Herefords Mr. Heath was as successful here as at Birmingham.

In Class 6 he took the first prize with an animal to which the first prize in a similar class was awarded at Bingley Hall. It is an exceedingly well made beast, but hardly comes up to the mark of previous shows.

The same remark will apply also to the Hereford heifer which took the prize in Class 7. Indeed, altogether, the Herefords appeared to rather less advantage than was anticipated. The same remark, however, does not apply to the shorthorns. We very much question whether any more beautiful or perfect animal was ever shown in Baker-street Bazaar than the steer belonging to Mr. George Taylor of Sewerby Cottage, Bridlington Quay.

At Birmingham the judges awarded it the gold medal, and at this show it receives the gold medal for the best steer or ox in any of the classes, together with the first prize and silver medal in Class 9. It is a beautiful beast, almost wholly white, perfectly symmetrical, and completely answering every requirement of the most critical judge.

In Class 10 Earl Spencer was again a prize-taker with the ox which carried off a similar honour at Birmingham. The short-horned heifers were very neat and good. That shown by Mr. Tuck, and to which was awarded the first prize, was a model animal. Indeed, as we have before said, the shorthorns fairly carried the day. Not only did the gold medal for the best ox or steer fall among them, but the gold medal for the best heifer or cow was also awarded to one of their number—a splendid roan-and-white cow, shown by Mr. John Faulkner, of Bretby Farm, Barton-on-Trent.

Amongst the Sussex breed there is nothing particularly deserving of notice; and the same may be said of the Norfolk and Suffolk-poll classes. Among the long-horns it is worthy of note that a heifer belonging to Mr. J. H. Barbary, of the Chase, Kenilworth, which could only reach the second prize in a similar class at Birmingham, achieved first honours here, and in the opinion of all observers deserved them.

Considerable interest attached to the Scotch breeds shown, from the fact that Mr. McCombie, of Tillyfour, Aberdeen, who had been successful at Birmingham, and Mr. James Stewart, of the New Market, Aberdeen, who had carried off everything before him at Darlington, were among the exhibitors. The prize list will show that they were equally successful at this show. Mr. McCombie's ox, which took the leading place in Class 21, excited the admiration of all on-lookers. There was nothing more symmetrical in the show. In Class 22, Mr. Stewart had to succumb to Mr. McCombie; but the question of decision as to the merits of the two competing animals must have been a difficult one for the judges.

There was only one entry in the Irish classes—a very neat cow, but possessing no feature to warrant especial mention. The Welsh cattle were also few in number, but very good. In the cross-breeds, Mr. Stewart, of Aberdeen, completely distanced his opponents. Probably more beautiful animals never entered any show-ground. The ox which had the first prize awarded to it in Class 28 had no less than four prizes given to it at Darlington, one of which was a hundred guinea cup, presented by the founder of the society. It is reputed to weigh about 140 st., and measures about nine feet three inches in girth. Among the extra stock Earl Spencer obtained the silver medal for a very good ox; and Mr. Wm. Wells, of Redleaf, Penlshurst, got the silver medal for the best cow.

His Royal Highness the Prince Consort has not been so successful this year as on some former occasions. Among cattle, two third prizes and one second fell to him for very good animals in their respective classes, and he has besides one or two commendations.

The sheep shown are very good; indeed, it may safely be said that they have never been surpassed. The Leicesters, however, carried off the palm—the gold medal being awarded to a splendid pen of twenty-months Leicesters, bred and exhibited by Mr. G. S. Foljambe, of Osberton-hall, Worksop.

Mr. George Walmesley, of Rudston, Bridlington, whose sheep took the first prize in their class at Birmingham, had here to give way to Mr. Foljambe. Mr. Walmesley has long been a famous prize-taker, and to beat him is to achieve sheep-breeding fame: this Mr. Foljambe may most certainly congratulate himself upon having done. More prize-worthy animals than those which he shows were never exhibited. The Southdowns were in very great force, and were really admirable, though, as it seemed to us, rather too fat. As we have said, however, they had to yield place to the Leicesters, which, for once, were very much superior.

Surely the pigs shown are the fattest ever seen. If their inability to stand constituted a title to a prize, there is scarcely a pig in the bazaar which has not a perfect right to the honour. Mere fatness, however, does not seem to have been held in regard by the judges. They have evidently paid attention to the solid meat producing qualities of the animal. The gold medal for the best pig was awarded to Mr. John Coote, of Hammoor, Blandford, for an animal of the improved Dorset breed—a lengthy, round-backed fleshy animal, with abundant proofs of his ability to yield bacon. A pig belonging to Mr. William Baker, of Purewell House, Christchurch, and from the stock of Mr. Coote, received the silver medal among the extra stock.

The show of implements and roots is very large. It is that part of the exhibition which, we believe, presses most upon the club, and yearly demand is more space. Most certainly in this, more than anything else, is their evidence of the progress which agriculture has been making of late years. Steam-ploughs, reaping-machines, clod-crushers, lightly-built carts, chaff-cutters, and similar things, mark an advancement in the appliances for tilling the soil which would have astonished the farmers of half-a-century ago.

## VOLUNTEER MOVEMENTS.

The London Rifle Brigade assembled at Gaudbali on Saturday, and were put through several battalion manoeuvres, and the manual and platoon exercises, by Major and Alderman Rose, in the presence of Colonel Wilson, Royal London Militia.

The London Rifles, in conjunction with the 4th Tower Hamlets, assembled at its headquarters on Saturday for a parade, under the commanding officer (Colonel Money), and were put through a series of evolutions in the new drill-hall.

Lieut. Colonel H. Garnet Man, late of the 51th Regiment, and Professor of Fortification at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, has we learn, accepted the command of the First City of London Engineers, and, from his position in the army and acknowledged ability in this branch of the service, his co-operation must add greatly to the efficiency of an engineer corps.

The first annual meeting of the Kent Volunteer Association was held on Saturday afternoon, at the Mitre Hotel, Maidstone, the chair being occupied by Viscount Sydney, Lord Lieutenant of the county, who was supported by the Marquis of Camden, Earl Romney, Sir Brook Brydges, M.P., Mr. Deedes, M.P., and other influential friends of the volunteer movement. The cash statement was very satisfactory, and exhibited a balance in hand amounting to over £300.

The first general annual meeting of the council and members of the Sussex Volunteer Rifle Association was held at the Old Ship Hotel, Brighton, on Saturday—the Earl of Chichester in the chair. A lengthened discussion took place, arising out of the circumstance that, according to the second rule, two-thirds of the amount of the donations could be invested. The total, however, being only £512 1s., and the total balance in hand, by reason of the extraordinary expenses on the construction of the butts, and from other causes only amounting to £351 1s. 7d., with outstanding liabilities to the amount of £222, compliance with the rule became impracticable. Eventually Captain Roupell moved a resolution to take the special sum of £250 from the amount which, by the rule, ought to be but was not yet invested, for the purpose of meeting the present deficiency. This was carried, and the rule thereby not violated.

On Thursday evening the members of the Fifth Bucks Volunteers having assembled at their headquarters, Young's Royal Hotel, Slough, were put through a series of evolutions by Captain E. B. Harvey, and acquitted themselves very satisfactorily.

## SPORTING NEWS.

**PEDESTRIAN DISPLAY BEFORE THE PRINCE OF WALES AT CAMBRIDGE.**—The great interest evinced to witness the famed Seneca Indian induced a committee of gentlemen to raise a large sum by subscription, to be given in prizes for pedestrian contests, the principal event being a six mile race, in which Deerfoot, Brighton, Lang, and S. Barker contended, and they came off at Mr. Fenner's grounds. Full 5,000 spectators were present, including the Prince of Wales and suite, Major General Bruce, heads of colleges, most of the surrounding noblemen, gentry, and a large number of the fair sex also crowded the grounds. At the time of starting the appearance of the Indian was announced by loud cheers; he was introduced to the Prince, who in the most gracious manner shook hands with the tawny skin; and amidst a scene of great excitement the men were told to go. The Indian at once went ahead, first one and then the other afterwards taking the lead; but at the end of the mile Deerfoot was first by two yards, the time being good for the heavy state of the ground. On commencing the last mile, the Indian dashed in front, and ever and anon as each went in front by not more than a yard, the excitement was immense, and the cheers almost deafening. Brighton tried hard to keep with the Red-skin, and in the twenty-third lap again just got in front, and a terrific shout announced that they had commenced the last round. Deerfoot gallantly answered the call of his friends, and went off like the rush of a buffalo, was ten yards ahead before half way round, and, although Brighton came again within four yards of the Indian, another terrific rush of Deerfoot decided the race, the Seneca man leaving off as fresh as when he commenced. Loud cheers announced another victory of this now famed runner. Before the assembled ladies he gave his war-whoop, and gentle and simple crowded around to congratulate him. The illustrious Prince again shook hands with him, and presented him with a purse, in which were two notes, and also gave a handsome gratuity to the three Englishmen.

## AMERICAN WAR.—FLOOD IN THE FEDERAL CAMP.

The engraving in page 157 represents a scene in the Federal camp near to Washington after the heavy rains which fell in November. A number of the tents were flooded, and it was with considerable difficulty that the soldiers by wading through the water could keep up communications with each other. Much damage was done.



# **DISTURBANCES IN WARSAW.— RECENT POPULAR MEETING IN THE OLD MARKET PLACE.**

The question of Polish Nationality, for some time in abeyance, has been brought into prominent notice through recent affairs on the banks of the Vistula. The beginning of the present troubles of Poland took place some time ago, and they have culminated in producing military despotism everywhere. At present Warsaw is in a state of siege, and all the leading towns in the country are placed under the regime of the sabre. Several of the universities are closed, and a general depression and gloom pervades society. Our present illustrations have a reference to recent events, especially the larger one, which will be found below. The first represents the Vistula, a river often dyed with the best blood in Poland, at a point near to the capital. The Vistula is the chief river of the country, and divides Warsaw. Separating the district and suburb of Prague from the main city; the other represents the old market place, and illustrates an incident which lately arose in celebrating the anniversary of the battle of Grochow. Before the ceremony came off it was said that the governor of the city had no objection to it. It having, however, been reported that the Russians would celebrate a service at the same hour in honour of the soldiers who fell on that occasion, it was resolved to organise instead a grand torchlight procession to parade the principal streets of the city. For some days previously handbills had been largely distributed, and even posted up on the walls, calling upon all citizens to assemble on the old market-place at half-past six o'clock. At five o'clock already, not only the market-place, but all the adjacent streets, were thronged by a large multitude, including many persons of the better classes, and also women. The police, which was in force, called upon the crowd to disperse, but in vain. While the police were thus occupied in the old market-place the leaders of the demonstration assembled in the neighbouring church of the Paulinians for the funeral service. The church was not large enough to contain the assemblage, and the whole street was blocked up by the crowd. About half-past seven the procession issued forth from the church, and advanced through the street on to the market-place. This is the scene represented in our engraving. The cortege was headed by a man bearing the Polish flag—a white



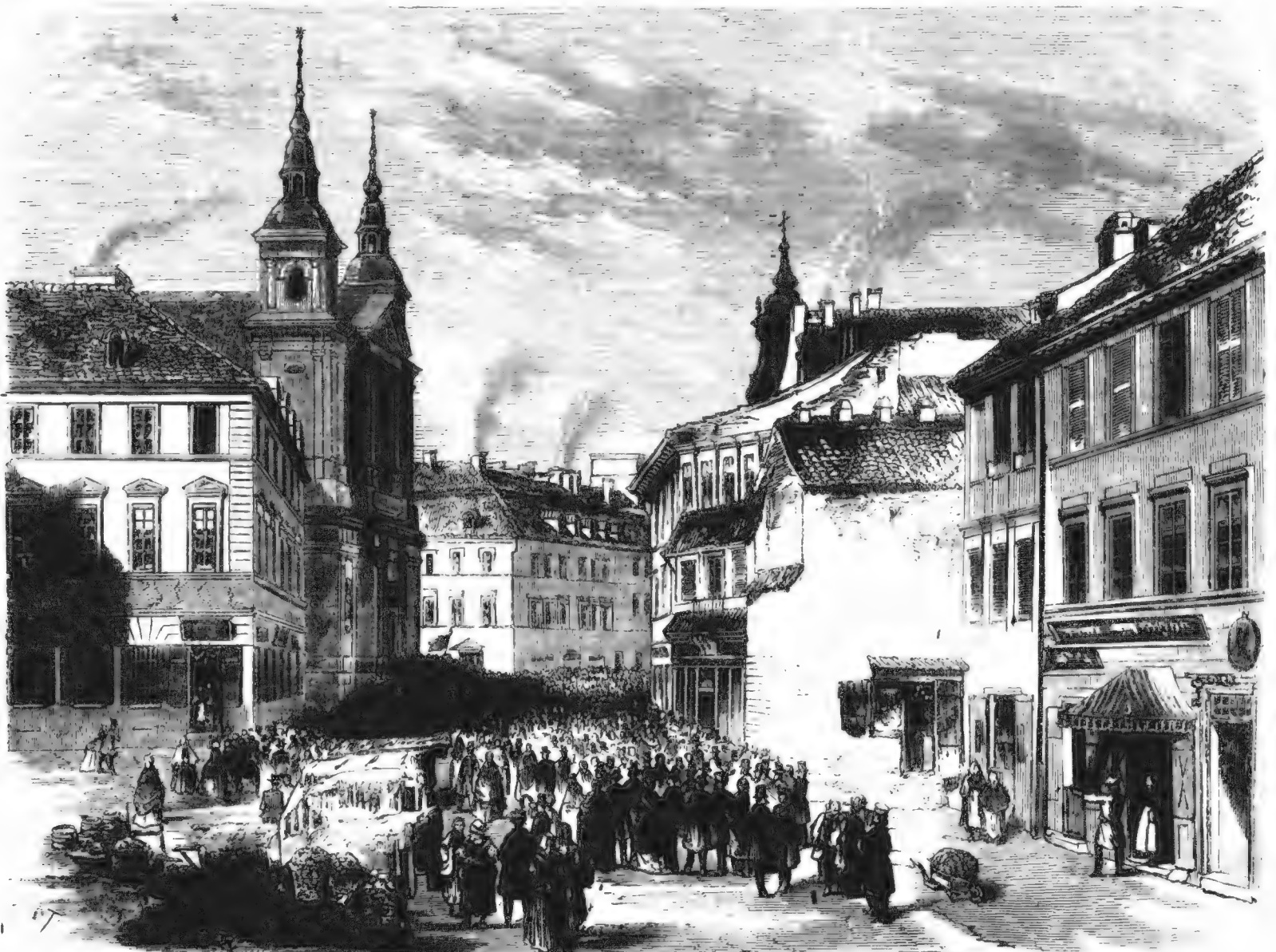
POLISH SKETCHES.—THE VISTULA BELOW WARSAW.

eagle on a red ground. He was followed by a body of young men, chiefly students of the Academy of Medicine, of the School of Agriculture, of the Academy of Fine Arts, and of the Institution of Nobility, as well as of young men of the industrial classes, most of them carrying small flags of the Polish colours, red and white, and torches. The procession traversed the dense and crowded market-place, singing a hymn; and when the people beheld the White Eagle, an immense and terrible shout of enthusiasm arose, which seemed never to end. It was the intention of the cortege to pass through the Rue St. Jean, in front of the Royal Palace, to reach the Cracow faubourg, the finest and most animated part of the city, and thence before the Government Palace, where the Agricultural Society was actually holding a sitting. As the cortege approached the Place St. Jean a squadron of mounted gendarmes suddenly made their appearance, and commenced making use of their sabres. A great tumult ensued; those of the cortege who were attacked defended themselves for some time with their flagstaves and torches. In about one hour afterwards the whole of the old market-place was clear, the whole garrison was under arms,

The Emperor's love of justice and his "Great Reforms" have been since shown by his placing the entire country under military law.

ANOTHER ENGLISH VESSEL BOARDED BY AN AMERICAN STEAMER.—The captain of the Rover, from Barbadoes, which arrived in the Thames last week, reports having been boarded on the 5th November, in lat. 17.9 N., long. 59.1 W., by an armed screw steamer, showing the United States' flag. The officer who came on board stated her to be the Montgomery, four months from Havana.

THE BANK OF DEPOSIT.—A correspondent in the Advertiser reports a noble act of self-sacrifice in connection with the affairs of this bank. Mr. Jacob H. Cotterell, Chairman of the Bath Board (a Quaker), has voluntarily conveyed the whole of his property, except the house in which he resides, and the furniture, to proper parties, for the benefit of the poorer of the Bath depositors. The property amounts to several thousand pounds in value. Mr. Cotterell had no stake in the concern at the time of stoppage.



POLISH SKETCHES.—MEETING IN THE MARKET PLACE, WARSAW.



## LADY ELFRIDA'S POWER.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

## CONSTANCE FALCONBRIDGE'S NARRATIVE.

I AM writing this on the Sunday, after midnight has sounded, and all the house is asleep. I have written of Saturday (yesterday) as though its events had happened a long while since. The fault, I suppose, is owing to my not being accustomed to composition.

And now may I dare ask myself—why did Elfrida pay mama that visit? That she *did* enter our part of the Ravelin, is certain: and it is equally certain that she is mistress of the place (how I know not) quite sufficiently to allow her to enter our home when she likes.

Why has Elfrida been here?

I dare hardly put the dark thought on paper; it is doubtless wicked, and owing to the prejudice I have against her. It cannot be true; and yet, what else can I think? Can she have come here to draw me away from Pelton House? If so, what was her reason? Could it be—I should not—I will not acknowledge even to myself, here, on this paper, that I think as I do think. If I am wrong I pray Heaven pardon me.

May 17.—Only forty-eight hours have passed since I wrote the last words in my diary, and what a change of events have taken place!

It is Tuesday night. I have just received a letter from Henrick Hargraves and I am unable to rest. If I had sufficient courage I should go down to the stable, saddle my horse myself,

and ride over now, in the middle of the night, to Pelton House and not wait for the morning.

My narrative when I last left had reached the date of Sunday night, I must try in a few brief words, for I am too anxious and perhaps frightened to write much, to state what has happened since that time.

And in the first place I cannot help recording the ridiculous interview I had with old cook Bulkens, which occurred yesterday, Monday, morning:—

I was walking at the bottom of our garden amongst the clustered trees, when I distinctly heard a sneeze. I started, and on looking up I saw—actually, the round staring face of Bulkens, the dear old cook. She was a most intolerably bad-tempered person, but I was quite glad to see her features.

"I've grazed 'em," said Bulkens; "but never mind, I sees yer, Miss. What Miss—you hope I'm well—yes!"

Here the unfortunate woman suddenly disappeared, and I heard the scuffling of something. Then I distinctly heard a slap on the face, and after a little time Bulkens re-appeared very red in the face, and trying to look calm. "I'm on a kinder ladder, Miss," said she, "which Mary would not keep her foot to it and keep it *hup*, I couldn't. What Miss? Yes. I'm going. Lor—they'll all be pizened with the furrineer, with twenty-three silver lined pots, or bang-mairy's e calls 'em a' takin of the place o' my stew-pans. Oh, Miss, when e grinned at the scullery it went to my 'art. Yes, Miss—I'm going to Bethenel Green—but lor, Miss, I couldn't go without a word to you and Missus—what? Yes, I do hope she is quite well—an' I say Miss—chuck us up a flower for a' membrance."

Poor Bulkens. I think she was a good woman if a fiery one. The last I saw of her was her hand clutching with a jerk at the little locket I flung at her, and then there seemed to be a crash, and I am quite sure there was a scream.

Poor Bulkens immediately called out that she had "comed down," the ladder having broken, and that she wished me all the "jies o' life." These were her last words except to pray me to take her respects to my mother.

Poor thing—I saw her and her boxes carried away in the servant's sociable only this morning, her face redder than ever.

I do not know why I've spoken of this queer interview, I suppose because it was another link broken with dear Ravelin.

I suppose it was some kind of regret for Bulkens that made me walk in the same spot this very evening about seven. I was moving slowly up and down in the spring moonlight, and debating within myself whether I should take my mother with me to Pelton, when happening to lean against one of the several old garden gates the rotten wood holding the rusty bolt gave way, and the door opened towards the park.

I felt little hesitation in passing through and once more wandering in the dear old park. It is called, I believe, a "surprise" park, for there are grottoes and sudden views, and odd turns. Amongst other "curios," as the people about us call them, is a grotto, at the back of which, and six feet above its ground plan, runs a path which is hidden amongst trees. It was in this very path I turned, for it is near the gateway through which I passed.

I think I have said it was moonlight, and when I hear



THE AMERICAN WAR—FLOOD IN THE FEDERAL CAMP.

voices speaking in the grotto, I was prepared to see figures below me if I looked over the top of the grotto. But I was not prepared to see Elfrida seated in a rustic chair, and at her feet Juan Cintos. At her feet.

If this narrative were to be read by any other person than myself, I would conceal the conversation I heard this very evening, before Henrick Hargraves' letters came. I remember it almost word for word.

"If a man lives in sin," I heard Elfrida say, "the longer he lives the greater the punishment may be."

"Then is it right to kill a hopeless sinner," Juan asked.

"Heaven knows, but it is sometimes merciful to put a suffering animal out of pain."

"Tell me, Lady Elfrida," he continued, "if the death of such a sinner, say against the true church, were more fortunate the earlier it occurred, would not the necessity of his death be enhanced if by it a true believer benefited?"

"I have heard holy fathers say so," Elfrida answered.

"If—if I could save a soul, and my own, and another's by the death of one whose purgatory would be the less the shorter his life, should I hesitate?"

"I do not think the holy father would tell you to hesitate."

Elfrida spoke with a very hard voice.

I heard no more. I fled.

I was listening to a conspiracy to murder. No self-persuasion could blind me to that awful truth. A conspiracy to murder. And whom? I dare not write the name, though I have read Hedrick's letter.

I came panting into the house, terrified, and even afraid of myself.

The post-boy I have referred to was waiting for me in the hall. He had Hedrick's letter in his hand.

"I knew it was from him—knew it was from him. I opened it at the spot on which I was standing when I took the letter. Those awful words!"

"Dear Constance,—Come at once. I will write no names. I have found the poisoner. Heaven have mercy on the poor creature—I will have none.—H. H."

## CHAPTER XIX.

MAY 23.—It was night time when Hargraves' letter arrived. I should have started at once for Pelton, but my mother, to whom I, of course, said nothing of this horrible business, entreated me so urgently to remain till the morning, that I had not the heart to refuse her.

I was on horseback with daylight; and though the servants at Pelton were hardly moving when I arrived, yet Hedrick Hargraves was up and waiting for me. He was kind enough

to say that he felt sure I should touch Pelton before the sun that morning.

We went into the private little sitting-room, which Sir Jeffrey called Mr. Hargraves' surgery, and sat down. I had no need to put my thoughts into words; Mr. Hargraves knew what I wanted to ask, and which I could not.

"Juan," he said; "that boy of eighteen years of age."

"How did you find it out?" I asked, and in such a voice that I did not recognise it as my own.

"I will tell you," he said. "The discovery seems to me almost miraculous. Yesterday, after you were gone, I went into Sir Jeffrey's room, and found your uncle preparing to recommence his betting correspondence. Juan Cintos had already taken his seat. 'Now, Pelton,' I said, 'you shall not write a word; you know what Aspinwall said.'"

"Only the directions, Hargraves," he said. "Juan is writing."

"No," I answered; "I'll finish off the letters;" and very resolutely I turned your uncle's chair from the table, and sat down at the writing materials myself.

Sir Jeffrey continued dictating; and as the letters were finished, I sealed and directed them. I need not say I completed my task by gumming the postage stamps on to the letters. I suppose I had finished about half-a-dozen, when,



happening to look up at Juan Cintos, I saw that his face was ghastly pale.

"Can I leave the room, uncle?" he asked the next moment. And then it was a suspicion seemed to take possession of me. "I'll take Mr. Cintos's place," said I, and looking the wretched lad in the face.

He hesitated—looked at me with a countenance in which despair was clearly written; and then he said, "No; I feel quite well again. Will you dictate, uncle?"

As for me, I reflected. Whatever in my conduct was curious to the boy, it was a something which had occurred while I had been in the room. Then if I continued as I had already proceeded, I felt I must soon learn more.

The boy wrote another letter (each communication did not contain more than half-a-dozen lines), and then began folding it. In a moment I saw that this was a *new* action on the part of the boy.

"I will direct and complete the letters," I said; and once more I saw him look at me in awful despair.

I was beginning to feel the clue to the mystery of my old friend's mortal illness.

The steady scratching of the pen continued, and I had directed and stamped another half-dozen letters, when I became conscious of a strong burning sensation in the mouth. The work continued, Juan, as I noticed, writing each letter more slowly than the last.

I had completed several more letters before the burning sensation at the back of the mouth became intolerable.

"What bad stamps these are," I said; "they have made my mouth feel as though on fire."

I saw the pen drop from Juan's hand.

"Why—why that is how my paroxysms come on," Sir Jeffrey said.

In that moment I learnt the awful truth: the stamps were poisoned. The wretched boy had stopped in the room to watch for the worst. My eyes met his, and he knew I had learnt his secret.

"Well," said I lightly, to Sir Jeffrey, "I heartily hope I'm not going to have one of your paroxysms;" and as lightly rising from my chair I left the room.

"Constance," Mr. Hargraves said, "the agony I *did* endure when I had reached my own room was terrible. Each convulsion seemed to rend me in pieces: but the paroxysm did not last very long. It was the first time of my being submitted to the action of the poison, and I the more easily recovered it. When I was able to walk—in about half-an-hour's time—I went down stairs again. Sir Jeffrey was still dictating, Juan still writing. He looked at me as I entered; and I think I never saw such a change in a human face.

I may tell you that I had locked the room before I returned to Sir Jeffrey Pelton's chamber, and that I had sent a telegraphic message to Dr. Aspinwall.

So we sat in that sick room—the writing with a death sweat upon his forehead, and diligently following Sir Jeffrey's dictation. I had given some light explanation of my absence, which had completely deceived the baronet.

Throughout a weary hour this torture was continued—he in an agony of suspense as to what my acts had been since I had left the room, I enduring extreme pain by witnessing the wretched boy's horror.

At last Sir Jeffrey declared his correspondence ended, and I lightly asked Juan if he was ready for a walk.

"Yes," he said in a mechanical, hopeless voice.

"Take care of yourself, Juan, till dinner time," the baronet said, looking with extreme love at the boy, for he has grown to consider the Spaniard his own son.

"Yes," he repeated in the same dead voice.

When we had left the room he turned upon me like a rat run to bay.

"What do you want?" he cried. He was still too much of a boy to be able to control his anger.

"What I mean to have?" I returned in a calm tone.

A silence of a few moments was broken by his saying, "Well?"

"You know I could put you in prison, if I choose."

"Yes I know that," he said, I think almost proudly.

"For your uncle's sake, and his alone, I will spare you," I said.

An absolute look of gratitude spread over his face. His countenance was even gentle—poor lad, I pitied him already. His crime was not so much his own as that of others.

"You must leave this place and never return to it," I said—"never look back on it!" I added as he turned, for by this time we had reached the park.

A blank spread over his face. "I am quite poor," he said, "unless I can reach Spain."

"Well go to Spain," I said. Again a beautiful look of gratitude lighted up his face.

"Look!" I said, taking my purse from my pocket; "here is enough to take you back to Spain—go, but I can be cruel as well as kind. Do not return, even if you hear that Sir Jeffrey has died without a will. A criminal cannot inherit property, and you are a criminal. Let me see you in England again, and within an hour I will throw you in a jail."

He started back—then absolutely took my hand. "If," he said, "if I had been born an Englishman and brought up in England, perhaps I might now be like you. But, but—"

Here he trailed off into sobs and kissed my hand. If he had been a free agent; if he had habitually governed himself, I think I could have forgiven him, told the poor lad that his secret should be mine alone, and told him to begin a new life—where he was. But I knew him to be governed, hopelessly governed by one, if not two minds stronger than his own. In such a case, mercy would have been utterly weak. He has gone; we shall never see Juan Cintos again.

"What does my uncle think of his absence?" I asked Mr. Hargraves.

"He does not know of it yet," he answered. "I am waiting for Dr. Aspinwall; we three will make a search of Juan's room together."

Within the hour Dr. Aspinwall arrived, according to the answer he had returned Mr. Hargraves by telegraph, and we commenced our search.

"I suppose we must hunt in every corner," said the doctor after he had asked a few rapid questions of Mr. Hargraves.

"No," said Hargraves, "Juan Cintos was not old enough in crime to know that audacity is safest from detection; yet he is not so common a criminal that he would hide the means of his crime in an unaccustomed corner. The poison, whatever it

may be, is only *partly* hidden. In all probability, it is in his desk."

We went to the escritoire, and being unable to open it except by force, Mr. Hargraves broke the lock. Let me be brief, for I do not love to dwell upon these horrible particulars. Behind a quantity of loosely piled books, we found a little common-looking bottle, labelled "laudanum." Dr. Aspinwall opened it and smelt the contents; then tasted them. He immediately detected a heating sensation at the top of the throat.

"This is, in all probability, the poison," said the Doctor, smelling once more. "It has not been made by a practitioner, but by a man practically unacquainted with chemistry. It is—it is—a decoction of aconite," the doctor continued; "and very roughly made. I see the process," continued the Doctor, "and I can hardly believe it possible that so young a human being can have been so utterly methodical in his crime—he has even avoided the chance of any suspicion, by making his own poison."

Mr. Hargraves started. "Did you say the poison was a decoction of aconite?"

"Yes."

"There is a large bed of aconite in the Italian garden to the south of the house," Mr. Hargraves continued. "I remember that he was very fond of digging in the garden."

"I see the plan and the process perfectly," said the Doctor, with that calmness with which medical practitioners converse of matters of life and death, and which is always so repulsive to the non-professional observer; "this has been one of the cleverest devised schemes for the administration which have ever come under my knowledge. I am convinced this has not been the plot of a young unaided mind."

"Of that I am also equally convinced," said Mr. Hargraves.

"You remember my saying that, in the event of Sir Jeffrey's death, I could not conscientiously say that he had died by poison; while I admitted that, in my own mind I was certain he was suffering from a virulent poison. The process adopted by this youthful criminal reconciles the apparent contradiction of my remarks. The poison, I comprehend, without an analysis, was spread in very minute doses on the postage stamps. Sufficient was sucked from half-a-dozen of these stamps to create sickness, not enough to betray poison. Thus it was actually the case, that while Sir Jeffrey was gradually sinking from the continuous effects of a strong poison, no traces of its presence were to be discovered, and, for a very good reason—the poison had never entered the system, had never passed beyond the orifice of the throat, which it sufficiently irritated to create intense nausea. Sir Jeffrey was actually dying from a weakening of vital force, which was continuous by the effect of that poison which it was impossible to trace. A stupendous idea," Dr. Aspinwall said in conclusion, and as though he were admiring it.

"Dr. Aspinwall," said Hedrick, after a pause, "I think you will fall in with my view of this case. Sir Jeffrey is weak, though safe; but a shock, such as a statement to him of the truth would be, might result fatally. I therefore request that he shall never know anything about it. The boy is gone; he will never return. No harm will follow concealment—much may follow making the particulars of this affair public. What do you think, doctor?"

"I think that the young man is very lucky," said the doctor, smiling at Hargraves; "and that he benefits more than he deserves by that quality of mercy of which he seems to possess no share."

"Then I may presume you will not circulate the case professionally."

"Certainly not," said Dr. Aspinwall; "for I do not shine in it. With you lies all the honour; do with *your* secrets as you like. I promise you not to mention it—even in confidence."

"Oh, my dear doctor," said Mr. Hargraves; "if you were to tell it in confidence, the history would be in the papers in a fortnight."

Mr. Hargraves smiled, but I saw his face was still extremely anxious. "And now, Dr. Aspinwall," he continued, "I want you to talk with me about an affair of my own."

"You want me to leave, on Mr. Hargraves," I said; "certainly—I have no right to remain."

Dr. Aspinwall laughed—I know not why—and I rose at once, feeling, as I did so, that I blushed.

The next moment I was leaving the room. I went to my uncle's bedside at once. He was much better, yet still very weak. As I entered the room he was petulantly asking where his nephew was, and protesting, in a tone very different from his usual hearty manner, that there was a conspiracy to carry him into the grave.

When Dr. Aspinwall and Hedrick Hargraves came into the room, I noticed that the medical gentleman looked with a new respect upon his companion. The doctor sat talking with my uncle for some time, predicting that in a very short time he would be himself once more.

When he rose to take his leave, Mr. Hargraves said, "Well, will you try the experiment I was talking about?"

Dr. Aspinwall first looked at me hesitatingly, and then an expression of absolute reverence came upon his face as he said to Hedrick, "Mr. Hargraves—I am weak enough to admit that I sometimes think men who know nothing of my profession have happy guesses which almost become, when contemplated, absolute revelations. Your idea is wild in the extreme—it would be laughed at by every corporation of medical men in Britain, but I will not ridicule it any further, for Heaven knows our profession is not perfect. I will try your experiment—and God grant it may prove as successful as you wish it, more for the sake of others, than your own, I am sure."

"What's this, what's this?" the baronet asked.

"My own private business Pelton," said Hargraves, and there was a something in his voice which prohibited my uncle from saying more.

I am writing this five days after Juan Cintos' flight. He has written to Hedrick Hargraves—so guardedly that it could not implicate the writer in the crime to which he refers, and yet so warmly and lovingly that it read to me like the letter of a woman to her lover. "I wish I could live near you and serve you for ever," he concluded.

"Poor youth," said Mr. Hargraves to me, after reading the letter; "I wish he had lived near me from boyhood; I think without vanity he would have been a better man than he will become."

And now I am asking myself whether I have done right in hiding from my dear friend Hedrick Hargraves the awful conversation I heard between Elfrida and Juan. I know now what

the poor lad's questions meant; perhaps the "other" he so much wished to benefit was some honest Spanish lady in the land in which he was born.

Shall I tell Mr. Hargraves all? Shall I tell him what I feel to be the truth, that Elfrida instigated the murder? And why? How could she benefit by Sir Jeffrey's death. Yet she did instigate him, I am sure. As I think over her answers I wonder at their cruel depth and seeming truth. They seem to me to be profound enough for a man—a cunning clever man, with a hard cruel face. Ah, that reminds me of him I saw in the drawing-room that day I stole into Ravelin, for he must have questioned Elfrida about me. Who is he? Can that man, also, have had any voice in those awful words?

It is wrong, I know, to suspect all about me in this manner; but the terrible events of the last few weeks have unnerved me. I am not my old self. Even now as I write here in the night-time, the coals falling have a threatening sound—the simmering of the hot oil at the top of the wick of the lamp sounds like a dirge, and I am almost afraid to look over my shoulder, though I actually smile at the absurdity of my fears.

I have thought a little longer, and I have determined not to tell my dear friend, Mr. Hargraves, of my knowledge of Elfrida's part in the attempt on Sir Jeffrey's life. He is a good honest gentleman; and while my confidence would do nobody any good, it would pain him extremely; for I feel he has a reverential respect for all women, and he can have no idea of Elfrida's cruel power and mercilessness, and now, *even* *even*.

No; I will hide the secret in my own heart. Yet why—why did Elfrida bid Juan in endeavouring to encompass my uncle's death? What object had she to serve?

May 30.—What object had she to serve? I know now. It is a week since I opened this page, and these are the first words which meet my eye. What motive had she to procure my uncle's death? Enough—quite enough.

This morning—not two hours ago—Lady Elfrida Falconbridge became Lady Elfrida Ansell. Yes; she and Harold are married. I do not feel hurt, or desolate, or angry; I only feel shame—unspeakable shame—that I ever loved him. It is only a few months since that, girl-like, I used sometimes to pretend not to see him when he entered the room. He used to laugh at my coquetry. I pity him now. They are married, he has deserted me long since; she has obtained my fortune and my mother's, yet I pity him, and hold her in shrinking abhorrence. I feel no anger—no wounded self-love. I want—I may confess this here—I want to see Mr. Hargraves's kind face once more. I *must* see it. He will make me feel calm once more. I—I will go to Pelton at once.

What motive had Elfrida for Sir Jeffrey's death? Oh, the sin and wickedness of this weary world. Sir Harold Ansell is the heir-at-law of Sir Jeffrey after Juan Cintos. I feel sure that Lady Elfrida intended to destroy Juan by threatening him with an exposure of his miserable crime, and then she would have gained (for she rules Sir Harold) the great Pelton estate; how powerful she is I know full well; what a sway she can exercise is not unknown to me; but I would rather be that poor, wretched, imbecile woman, who is listlessly weeding the park-roads, than be the Lady of Ravelin.

Ah! as I look up, a man from the house has driven the poor creature away. I suppose the sight of her has shocked my cousin.

We will go away from this place—my mother and I; we will not stop here under the roof of that terror. I am not moved by passion, but I am too much of a woman to depend for shelter upon one who has outraged every dignity of her sex.

I will ask Mr. Hargraves, just as though he were my brother, what I shall do. So, good bye, dear diary, which seems like an old friend, till I can record Mr. Hargraves' advice on the next page—I am sure it will not be the worst in my book.

#### THE NARRATIVE OF HEDRICK HARGRAVES.

Constance Falconbridge's diary ends with the last line, for the simple reason, that the advice she sought of me, and which I gave, renders it unnecessary for the purpose of this exposition of a darkened human mind that it should be here continued.

The history will, therefore, be carried on by myself.

It is I who wrote the impersonal opening of this work. It is I who have inverted Constance's narrative in chronological succession to that first part of this history, and the influence of the same person will lead to the arrangement of the following chapters.

I make this history—for I will not call it a tale—public for a reason. There have been two works recently published in which "intellectual crime" has exhibited such a brilliancy of perfection, that it has required means beyond the law to meet and conquer them. In the first published of these tales, the criminal overpowers honesty of the most intellectual and determined kind, and his plans are ultimately only frustrated by the knife of the assassin. Now I hold that to endeavour to prove to a public that intellectual crime may be thoroughly defiant of consequences is horribly dangerous and equally untrue; but when it is further urged that the intellectual criminal in this instance is perfectly happy, healthy, and attractive under these circumstances, I think the immorality is nearer completion than that of any French novel I know. In the second case, the criminal is said to possess the attributes of a very god. He rejuvenates himself, he commits every excess of crime, and he is ultimately conquered, not by every-day means, but by a kind of semi-celestial miracle.

All this is bad—rotten. It is in a small way to counteract the weak—though dangerous, because attractive—philosophy of these tales that this history has been written. It is a history of crime wherein the criminal though successful by a concurrence of circumstances more than ordinary, as certainly was met by an every day and moral opposition, such as being applied in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred is fairly successful.

I protest against the public assertion that intellectual crime is safe crime. The more involved it becomes the more liable it is to get in a tangle, and therefore the more liable to be discovered. That crime which is brutal is most successful because the simplest, and because its discovery baffles intellect for the simple reason that intellect has little to do with the crime itself.

I am not here discussing the general question of murder. I am only desirous of proving that intellectual crime is not infallible, and ascertainable by common means. That assertion I trust my labours here will prove to be true.

It was my wish to hunt down Lady Elfrida. I find that she was I carried on against her.

(To be continued in our next.)







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